



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Noe Valley History Day Is Sept. 16

By Olivia Boler

Whether you are new to the neighborhood or an old-time Noe Valley resident, Noe Valley History Day can offer a glimpse into the past, present, and future of our environs.

The East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club, Friends of Noe Valley, and the Noe Valley Library are co-sponsoring this annual event, honoring a neighborhood that has retained its character despite the constant cycling and shifting of San Francisco as a whole. This year's theme is "A Celebration of Neighborhood History," and all residents are welcome to share in a bit of our common heritage.

On Saturday, Sept. 16, the Noe Valley Library at 451 Jersey St. will hold an open house from 2 to 5 p.m. In the main reading room, visitors will be able to peruse panels of photos, posters, and artwork of Old Noe Valley, as well as other areas of the city. Photos date from the turn of the century to the present, and include portraits of Noe Valley residents, Victorian homes, dairy farms, fire engines, cable cars, and old movie houses. Some may not know that the majestic Noe Theater used to stand across from Herb's Fine Foods, or that the site of Washington Mutual Bank on the corner of 24th and Noe streets was once a gas station.

Artifacts such as model cars, comic books, and children's books will also be on display. A prized artifact, a metal streetcar logo from the old Market Street



Cows in Noe Valley? No. Ruby and Selma Betten had their close encounter of the bovine kind on their uncle Don's farm near Wells, Minnesota. Summer's over and the kids and their parents, Doug Betten and Denise Chirpich, are back home in Glen Park. Reports and photos from other readers start on page 29.

Railway, was unfortunately lost two years ago while the History Day display was up, so all such precious memorabilia are now housed safely in glass cases.

In the children's reading room, performance artist Heather Rogers will provide entertainment that Children's Librarian Carol Small describes as a program of "magic, comedy, and juggling." In keeping with the spirit of History Day, Rogers will attire herself as a court jester. Share in the free refreshments provided by the organizers while enjoying Rogers' show.

Downstairs in the meeting room, his-

Continued on Page 9

Local Whiz Plays It Smart On *Millionaire*

By Suzanne Herel

Ever think that reading the theater reviews in an entertainment magazine might be worth \$64,000?

You might if you'd been in the hot seat opposite Regis Philbin, like Jamie Hammond was recently.

The Noe Valley resident had sailed through 11 questions, winning \$64,000 on *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*, when the game show host asked him: "What is the color of the painting that is the focus of the play *Art*? Pink, gray, black, or white?"

Those watching the show, which aired in late August, might have been willing to guess. But not Hammond.

"Even if you're 90 percent sure when you're at home, there's still a 10 percent chance you're wrong, and there's money on the line," said Hammond, 31, sipping coffee at Martha & Bros. on a recent Saturday afternoon.

Instead of trying to double his money by taking the question, Hammond walked away with his winnings. Good thing, too: The answer was *white*, but Hammond said he would have guessed *black*, a move that would have chopped his earnings in half.

He recalled a *TimeOut New York* magazine he'd bought on arriving in New York—where the show is filmed—to bone up on entertainment trivia. "I didn't turn the page to see the theater reviews," he said. "If I had, maybe I'd have been on the show a little longer."

Still, he has no regrets. He never

thought he'd get on the show in the first place. On a lark, Hammond began calling *Millionaire's* contestant line last April while driving to Palo Alto, where he's a product manager at Alta Vista. He got through about 10 times, and answered the trivia questions correctly about three times, he said. Then he got a call-back, answered those questions right, and finally heard from a live person at the end of June. That's when he started preparing for his television debut.



Noe Valley resident Jamie Hammond won \$64,000 by knowing exactly when to quit on the television game show *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*. Photo by Suzanne Herel

"I decided if I was going to do this, I wasn't going to mess around," he said. First stop: Barnes and Noble, where he picked up a variety of reference books, including *The Order of Things* and the *People Magazine Almanac*. He also played the *Millionaire* computer game. Then he started assembling people he'd be able to call as one of his "lifelines" on the show. "I wanted to get ringers," he said.

Hammond tracked down the author of

Continued on Page 9

Dan's Auto Throws in the Towel

By Suzanne Herel

When the McCarthy family opened a gas station on land they owned near the corner of 24th and Vicksburg streets, Herbert Hoover was president, the country was in a depression, and full-service attendants still checked your oil.

Now, after hosting a neighborhood fixture for 70 years, the McCarthys' plot is for sale.

The development possibilities range from condos to retail shops to parking. Only one thing's for sure: You won't be able to get your car fixed there anymore.

In August, Dan's Auto Service—which had leased the land for 15 years—surprised locals by closing suddenly, leaving only a note on the door directing customers to another shop.

Wayne Rosemont, owner of the business that provided automotive repair and service (he stopped selling gas seven years ago), said high costs of everything from rent to payroll drove him to close.

Continued on Page 7



What's next for the former Dan's Auto Service, a four-lot parcel of prime 24th Street real estate? A badly needed parking lot? More shops and condos? A neighborhood awaits... Photo by Pamela Gerard



They're Not All Victorians. All this building at the corner of Castro and 23rd Street needs is a gargoyle or two and maybe a flag to complete its sand-castle-like style. *Photo by Leo Holub*

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If you can't attend this event, be sure to tune in to a radio interview with Craig Winters on KEST 1450 am on Thursday, September 7 from 11 am - 12 noon.

For further information please visit our web site at realfoodco.com

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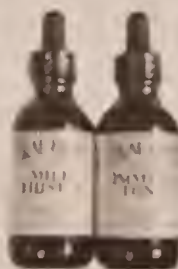


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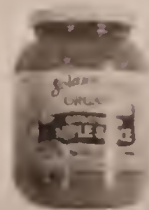
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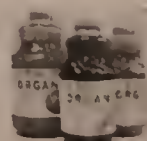
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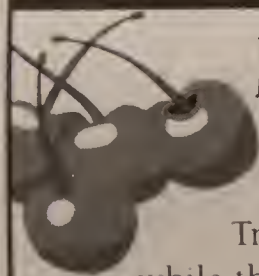
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LETTERS 33¢

Barking Dogs Aid Police

Editor:

Early this morning [Thursday, July 20], a person was pushed or fell off a balcony in front of a building on Church Street between Jersey and 25th streets. My back yard faces the back of that building, as well as the backs of many of the houses on Jersey and 24th near Church.

Both my dogs awakened me with some loud barking early in the morning, which I dismissed as a visit from a local raccoon or skunk. A few minutes later, they both ran onto my balcony and barked loudly until I came to see what was going on.

I saw a policeman standing on top of a storage shed behind the Church Street building. He asked if I had seen someone in any of the yards. I looked at where my dogs were staring, and sure enough there was a man trying to climb over a fence from the back of a building on Jersey Street into a yard behind a house on 25th Street.

From the officer's point of view, the man was not visible. I told the officer where the man was hiding, and the officer pulled his gun and ordered the man to stop. That was when Sedona and Mitzi and I went back inside.

Apparently the man who fell was pronounced dead, and the alleged perpetrator taken into custody.

Now we have some K-9 heroes on our block!

Lynne Maltz
25th Street

Editor's Note: The district attorney has dropped murder charges against the 29-year-old Noe Valley man allegedly involved in a dispute with a 27-year-old man who fell from his balcony at 1280 Church St. According to police, the younger man, a friend visiting from Florida, had been drinking heavily and most likely fell from the landing by accident. (For further details on the July 20 incident, see this month's Police Beat column, page 13.) However, the Noe Valley man was jailed on an outstanding \$20,000 arrest warrant for drug violations in Alpine County, Calif.

Lance's Guide to Life

Editor:

My name is Lance, and I am a 2½-year-old yellow lab guide dog. I've been with my new dad (who can't see) for about 10 months. We've come to know each other pretty well so far, but we need some help.

When I'm working with him (which is whenever I have my harness on), I see many people who don't quite know how to respond. Many want to pet me, or call out to me, or even pull my harness or leash. They may be trying to help, but this can be very tough for me because I really need to concentrate on keeping my dad safe. We can get hurt if I am distracted or interfered with.

Other dogs are a big problem, because they don't understand that I can't play or sniff. And if they are off leash, wow... Some people take their dogs aside, or around the corner and let us pass, which is so much better for me at my young age. I love to play, but *not* with my harness on. Even one bad encounter with a (pet) dog, on or off leash, can permanently upset my ability to work—I'd have to retire, and I'd miss my dad a lot.

If I can't steer my dad around an obstacle, I lead him right up to it so he can feel it, and we work out a way around it. I won't let him get into trouble, but when the clearance is tight, I let him decide what to do. He will ask for help if we need it, but we have worked through many, many situations.

I once ran him into a tree while walk-



Paco Alfaro and Lance, his precocious yellow lab, take a break during graduation ceremonies at Guide Dogs for the Blind.

ing around a car on the sidewalk because someone across the street was yelling "Look out!" I would have stopped, but I turned to see what the yelling was about, and—wham!—my poor dad hit the branch with his head and got a bump and a cut. We had to go in to clean and ice it. I felt real bad and sat by him the rest of the day.

I love to help my dad because he does everything for me. He feeds me, gives me water, cleans up after me, and plays with me. He grooms me every day, and gives me a bath once a month (or more often if I get dirty). He even brushes my teeth!

I live in a nice house with a yard to run around in, my own bed that he got for me (very comfy), certain toys to play with, and lots and lots of love and praise.

He's the best, and I really want to take care of him. He takes me everywhere he goes, so I've been around to many places. I stay quiet on the floor until we are ready to go again. He likes to talk about us to the people we meet, when he can. Sometimes we're running a little late and can't talk, but usually we like to chat with people.

Did I mention play? We play. And play—at home. We play "get you": he tries to catch me, but I jump back. He can't see me, so I come back up and touch his hand with my chin to let him know where I am. I figured that out all by myself. It's my favorite game. I won't mention the chase around the table with a slipper in my mouth, 'cause I'm not supposed to do that... Oh, I also let him rub my tummy...a lot.

My school in San Rafael—Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc. (1-800-295-4050)—has a lot of good materials to learn from, and is a great place to visit. They put out a brochure that gives some good tips for meeting a working team. Or check out their web site: www.guidedogs.com. Thank you for helping to spread the word.

Regards (lick),



Lance
Cesar Chavez Street

LETTERS 33¢

THE VOICE welcomes your letters to the editor. Write the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or send email to jaxvoice@aol.com. Please include your name, address, and phone number. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) You may also send us mail via our web site: www.noevalleyvoice.com. Note that letters may be edited for brevity or clarity.



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The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, and manuscripts, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name, address, and phone number, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned manuscripts will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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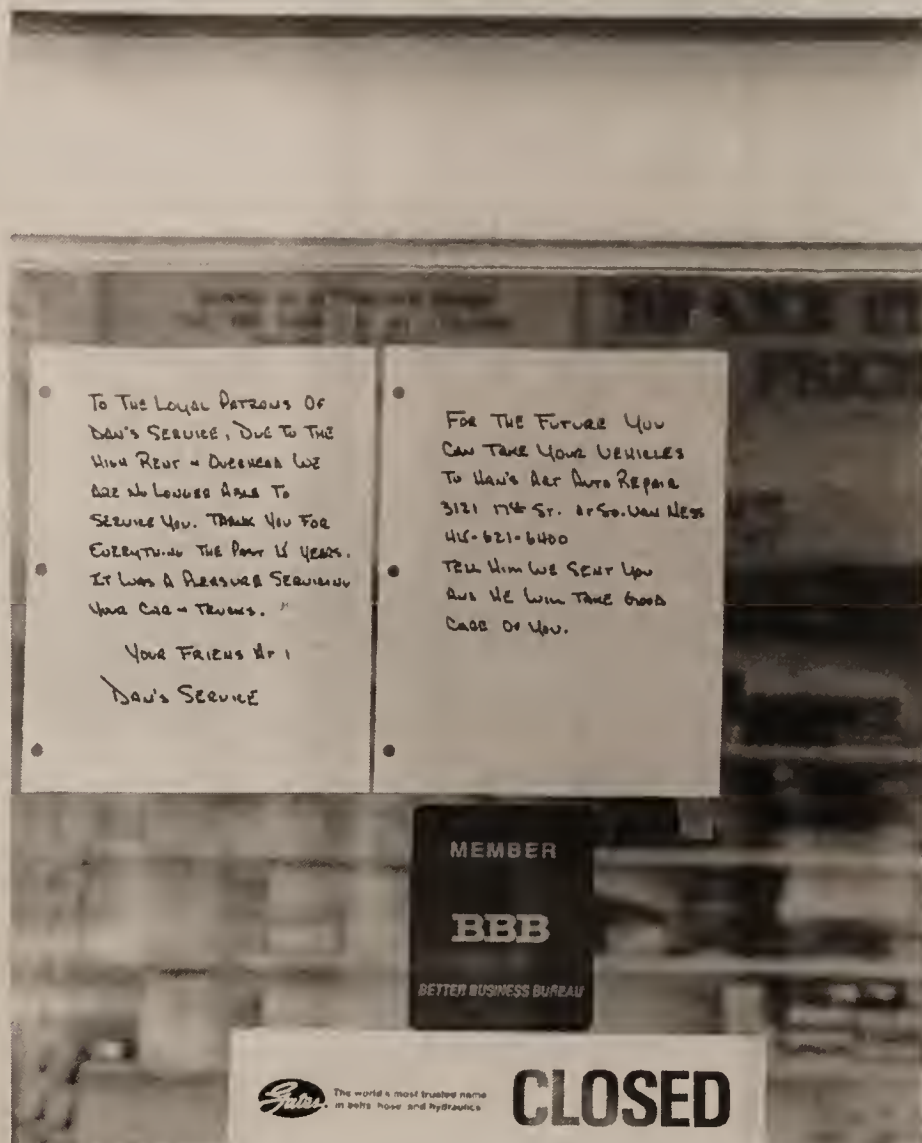
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YINE ROSEMONT

Proprietor



Escalating overhead costs drove Dan's Auto Service out of business, and now Noe neighbors with cranky crankshafts are scrambling for new mechanical gurus. Photo by Pamela Gerard

Merchants Eye Dan's Lot for Parking

Continued from Page 1

"I feel like I'm a victim of overhead," said Rosemont, adding that it wasn't an easy decision. "I'm very sad. I can't sleep," he said. "I see customers, and they're emotional, too."

The handwritten sign on the door cited "high rent" as the reason for closing, but members of the McCarthy family said they had not raised the rent in eight years. Last year, the family bumped it up from \$7,050 to \$7,550, said Fred Hornblower, who married into the McCarthy family.

"The letter on the door was a lot of malarkey," Hornblower said.

No sooner had Dan's closed than merchants—always looking to increase parking on 24th Street—began talking about the possibility of turning the four-lot parcel into a parking lot or garage.

"It's the only place large enough," said Bob Roddick, president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association. In fact, he said, "we have targeted that area for a parking garage for years."

Roddick has asked Supervisor Mark Leno to look into having the city purchase the land.

Leno said that one option might be to have the city build a ground-floor or underground garage and top it with affordable housing units. He said he'd be meeting with the city's director of parking and traffic and the mayor's office of housing to discuss the idea. "I think we need to move pretty quickly," Leno said.

Roddick has already started lobbying. "Parking is a matter of life and death," he said. "Developing a lot or garage would be far better than letting a contractor develop every

square inch."

Years ago, the merchants banded together for a similar project. They bought the land next to Hopwell's Restaurant (across from the Coyote bar) and sold it to the city to create a small metered lot.

But times—and real estate prices—have changed, and Hornblower is skeptical that the city would be able to afford such a project.

"If anyone buys it, they would most likely put in stores and condos," he said, perhaps similar to the ones developed next to Bell Market.

Hornblower said the land, which had been contaminated for years by underground gas tanks, is finally at a point where it can be developed. Environmental cleanup is just about complete, he said.

The closure has Noe Valley Auto Works, a 24th Street neighbor, scrambling to keep up with demand, said that shop's owner, Richard Yee. "The phone is ringing off the hook," he said. "We're turning work away."

Yee said he was sorry to see Dan's go. "It's a shame. It really worked out well having two shops on the street," he said.

Hans Art Automotive, to which Rosemont recommended his customers, also is seeing an increase in business. "The closing caught a lot of people by surprise," said owner Hans Art, who lives in Noe Valley.

One of those people is Sydney Mealley, a hairstylist at Heads Up Hair Care at Castro and 24th streets and a longtime Dan's customer.

"Bit by bit, we're losing that neighborhood feel," she said. "I'm going to miss him." □



Cover To Cover

booksellers

Fall Events

Sunday, 10/1 - 3:00 p.m.

Carol Hughes – signing *Jack Black and the Ship of Thieves*

Friday, 10/6 - 7:00 p.m.

Cara Black – signing *Murder at Belleville*

Wednesday, 10/18 - 6:00 p.m.

Philip Pullman – signing *Amber Spyglass*

Friday, 10/20 - 7:00 p.m.

Alan Deutschman – signing *Second Coming of Steve Jobs*

Sunday, 10/29 - 6:00 p.m.

Infant / Child CPR Training – conducted by the American Red Cross (\$45. fee)

Wednesday, 11/1 - 6:00 p.m.

Art Spiegelman & Francois Mouly – signing *Little Lit*

Friday, 11/10 - 7:00 p.m.

Peter Gabel – signing *The Bank Teller & Other Essays*

Sunday, 11/19 - 4:00 p.m.

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Noe Valley Memorabilia on Display

Continued from Page 1

torical films and oral histories will take visitors into San Francisco's past. Several include early footage of Noe Valley.

Paul Kantus of the East & West of Castro Club explains that Noe Valley History Day is important because many new families have moved into the neighborhood in recent years. "They might be interested in what happened [in Noe Valley] before they got here," says Kantus. "Also, the old folks like to come and reminisce."

Kantus says about 100 people have visited the library on previous Noe Valley History Days. The displays will be up for about a month afterward, so if you really can't make it on the 16th, stop by another day. The Noe Valley Library (695-5095) is open Tuesday through Saturday.

If you have San Francisco memorabilia you would like to loan for the Noe Valley History Month display, please contact Paul Kantus at 647-3753. Also, if you prefer, Kantus has a small budget for making copies of your photos for the display and can return your originals to you. □

What It's Like to Win \$64,000 on Millionaire

Continued from Page 1

The Order of Things; contacted a former professor; chose a group of friends who would be together in a room with a computer; got in touch with a trivia whiz from the *Millionaire* Internet message board; and talked with the brother of a friend of a friend who was knowledgeable about medicine. "I knew I was weak at arts, literature, science, and medicine," Hammond said. "I was good at sports, pop culture, and geography."

Thus armed, Hammond flew to New York, his hometown, for the tapings on July 26-27. He was joined by his mother and brother. His fiancée, Charlotte, was in the middle of taking the California Bar exam, so she stayed in San Francisco.

At the ABC studio, a producer coached Hammond on what to wear (no stripes or pastels) and how to approach each question (go with your instincts and talk it out). During taping, he was sequestered. He wasn't allowed to read, write, or call anyone, and most people backstage weren't permitted to talk to him.

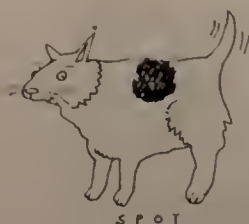
"I couldn't even go to the bathroom without an escort," he said.

At the end of his final show, Hammond told the TV audience that he planned to spend his winnings on first-class tickets to Italy for a honeymoon when he and Charlotte wed in October.

"I don't think I'm going to do that now," he said. For now, he's going to hold on to it. And, he said, "I'm going to give some of it to charity."

And his opinion on Regis?

"He's pretty much what you see on TV," he said. □



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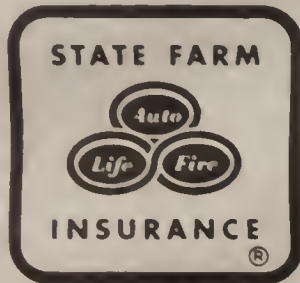
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Mikey and Tom Will Stay On

Grocery Store Owners Have Second Thoughts About Selling

By Heidi Anderson

The rumor was made fact in June when the sign went up in the Mikeytom Market window: The business had been sold.

Owners Tom Maravilla and Mike Meischke, the sign said, were planning to stick around for a month to help with the transition, and then they were off to other adventures.

But now, much to the delight of Mikeytom's patrons — and to Maravilla and Meischke themselves — the deal is off. Mikey and Tom will stay put and continue to operate their popular market.

The midsize grocery, which has held forth since late 1993 at the corner of Day and Church streets, sells organic produce, dry goods, flowers, fresh coffee, and sundries. It is known for its friendly counter staff, the colorful paintings on the walls by neighborhood artists, a spacious and brightly lit interior, and a mix of quality health foods and, shall we say, comfort food for customers with a taste for nostalgia.

As for the sale, at the beginning of the summer the partners were all set to pack their bags. "Everything was signed. The deal was in escrow," said Maravilla. "But there were too many things that didn't feel right to me." The final negotiated price and some other details nagged at Maravilla.

Maravilla then took stock of what the store meant to him and Meischke. "At first, I was dazzled by the money offered us," he said. "Then I started to look at what I would really gain in the end."

Maravilla figured that the money would take care of some personal and business debts and maybe allow him to take a couple months of vacation. "But then what would I do," he asked, "get a job?"

Even to open another store would have been a sticky issue. A "no-competition" clause in their contract with the new owner would have kept Maravilla and Meischke from opening a competing grocery within five miles of the Church Street site for five years.

At that point, he said, lease negotiations fell apart between the landlord and new buyer.

For Maravilla, who claims to run his business by trusting his heart, this was the wake-up call he needed. He cancelled the entire deal.

He said he also learned something important: Mikeytom's customers valued not just the store, but the people who owned it. "People kept saying, 'Oh, you're selling and moving on, good for you,' but no one complained, 'Oh, this is horrible for me.'" And then one day a customer asked bluntly, why after seven years' work to build a grocery store with such good neighborhood rapport would they hand over their creation to someone else?

"I realized we're a part of this community just like we'd hoped," Maravilla says. "I also realized we have a great core staff. So now we're motivated to stay."

Maravilla had claimed, in the July/August issue of this paper, that the high cost of paying his staff a living wage—a San Francisco living wage—was one of the reasons he had decided to sell the business. And now?

"Well," he sighs, "yeah, that's a good question. I guess we're going to have to dig down and pay the staff more. And hopefully we'll beat the bushes here in the neighborhood for kids and older adults to help."

Ann, who works half a block from the store and describes herself as a daily Mikeytom patron, stopped by one afternoon to chat with Maravilla as he took a break outside at one of the store's wind-bustled yet sunny tables. She thanked him energetically for staying on.

"Thank God! We didn't want you to go!" she exclaimed. "You've made a civilized place with beautiful flowers and good food and cheerful people." Maravilla demurred. But Ann insisted. "No, I mean it, you spread good karma!"

And the karma may indeed spread. Free from the "no-competition" clause and rejuvenated in their mission to provide good groceries in pleasant surroundings, Mikeytom owners have renewed their efforts to open a second Mikeytom Market in Glen Park. Stay tuned. □



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Saturday, September 30 • Morning Service, 10 a.m.*
• Evening Service, 7 p.m.
Sunday, October 1 • Morning Service, 10 a.m.*
• Shofar Blowing, 11 a.m.

Yom Kippur

Sunday, October 8 • Kol Nidray, 6:45 p.m.*
Monday, October 9 • Morning Service, 9 a.m.*
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REAL ESTATE

GOOD BUYING OPPORTUNITY!!!

If you are buying a single family home or condo, consider a 2 or 3 unit property instead!

By Shari Malone, Zephyr Real Estate

The current attack on Tenant-in-Common ownership is creating a buying opportunity.

One of the most popular methods of purchasing property will be outlawed if an ordinance that dramatically changes ownership and occupancy rights for multiple units passes in November. The ordinance has a retroactive date of July 10, 2000.

For the last 10 years, one of the largest demands for 2 and 3 unit properties has been from multiple buyers. For example, two buyers, buying a 2 unit property, would each occupy a unit as tenant in common owners.

Most of those buyers are NOT in the market NOW! A huge number of people have been knocked out of the buying market while the ballot issue is decided. This means buyers who wish to owner-occupy just one unit in a 2 to 3 unit property and keep the other units as rental units have a wonderful buying opportunity!

If you are currently qualified to buy a \$600,000 home, for example, you could probably buy a \$850,000 two unit property and have similar payments.

There are a number of advantages to buying multiple units; living in one unit and renting the other units. One advantage is that the owner's cost of living decreases over the years as the rents increase.

The income tax laws also provide advantages. In addition to the interest on the loan and property taxes which homeowners can deduct from their earned income before paying income taxes, owners of income property can deduct building depreciation and operating expenses.

Another advantage to living in a multiple unit building that you own is the opportunity to allocate some chores to your tenants. For example in my 4 unit property, one unit is responsible for mowing the lawn, another for watering the lawn, and another for taking the garbage cans out to the street. I also find that there is additional security. With many people in the building coming and going, a burglar is less likely to attempt a break-in. Also, when I go out of town, the tenants pick up my mail and newspapers. My fear of being bothered in the middle of the night by tenants locking themselves out or complaining of backed up toilets simply has not happened in the last 15 years of living in my 4 unit home.

If the law does NOT pass in November, then buyers who have purchased 2 to 6 unit properties have another advantage. They will then have the opportunity to sell one or more of the tenant occupied units to another owner-occupier. For example, selling 33% of a 3 unit property will bring a higher price per unit than the original purchase price. There will also be the opportunity to convert the units to condominiums which sell at a higher price than equivalent units that are owned as a tenant in common interest.

This decreased demand for small unit properties may not last long and it's important to act now. If the initiative is kept off the ballot by those opposing the law, or if the November initiative is defeated, those wishing to buy 2 and 3 unit properties will be coming back to the real estate market and with pent up demand. Competition for these properties will be severe and prices should increase dramatically.

Side note: I am vehemently against the proposed legislation aimed at the elimination of tenant in common ownerships because it attacks one of the most affordable ways to buy property in San Francisco. If you need information regarding the proposal, I welcome your call. In the meantime — those who can take advantage of the decrease in competition for 2 and 3 unit properties have a buying opportunity.

If you are buying or selling a residence or investment property, please call me to discuss timing your purchase or sale to take advantage of current laws, proposed laws, and market conditions. (415) 695-0552 x135.

Shari Malone has represented buyers and sellers of real estate for over 25 years. She is in the top 1/2 of 1% of Realtors, nationwide. If you have questions, she invites your call or email. 415-695-0552 x135 or ShariMalone@Zephyr-re.com

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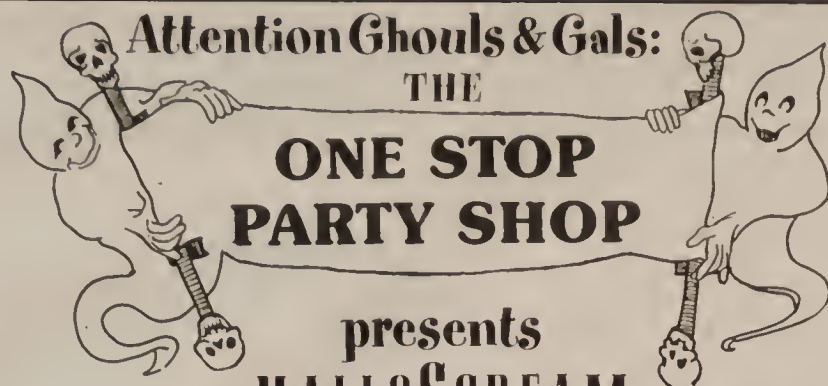
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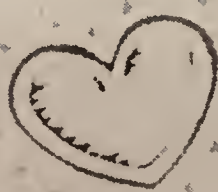
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POLICE BEAT

Guns Figure in Three Summer Robberies

By Officer Lois Perillo

After experiencing no robberies during May and June and only one in July, Noe Valley reported two robberies in the first half of August, one of which may be part of a series of five armed robberies committed citywide.

In the single July robbery, which occurred on Monday, July 31, at 9:45 p.m., a 21-year-old man was walking on the 1100 block of Dolores Street when a man who appeared to be about 25 ran up behind him, pressed a blunt instrument into his back, and demanded his wallet. Believing the instrument to be a gun, the younger man gave his wallet to the robber, who then crossed Dolores to the west side and ran northbound toward 24th Street.

In the first robbery in August, the one possibly linked to a citywide crime spree, two 24-year-old women were targeted by two men in their 20s on Saturday, Aug. 12, at 10:30 p.m. As the women walked west on 23rd Street near Chattanooga Street, the two men, one holding a handgun, approached on foot and demanded their bags. When one of the women screamed, the man with the gun struck her in the face and grabbed her bag. Meanwhile, the second woman handed over her bag to the second suspect. Both men then ran to a waiting car, which drove away south on Chattanooga Street.

Officer Martin Loo responded to the scene, but did not locate the suspects. San Francisco Fire Department paramedics evaluated the injured woman for jaw pain, and released her to seek her own medical aid as needed.

In the second August robbery, a 50-year-old woman was walking on Douglass Street near 24th Street on Tuesday, Aug. 15, at 3:40 p.m., when she saw a burgundy 1980s compact car with three people inside. The woman continued north on Douglass to Alvarado Street, where she was stopped by one of the car's male occupants, who had approached her on foot. The man pointed a gun and demanded her purse. Then a second man demanded her ring. The woman complied, and the suspects ran to the waiting car, which fled west on Alvarado.

Unfortunately, the suspects in these cases may be still at large.

One Arrest in Seven Home Break-Ins

There were seven reported burglaries within my area of Noe Valley during July. Four were of apartments and three of houses, with one resulting in an arrest. Three occurred on Thursdays, three on Fridays, and one on a Wednesday. The majority happened during the workday.

Death on Church Street Accidental

In an incident which was initially treated as a homicide and later as an accident, a 27-year-old man fell to his death from a balcony on the 1200 block of Church Street on Thursday, July 20, at 6:15 a.m., after arguing with a 29-year-old man who lived in the building. The 29-year-old man was subsequently arrested for his friend's murder, but later released to the Alpine County Sheriff's office for an outstanding drug warrant.

Police were alerted to the incident when a jogger passed a man face-down on the sidewalk and bleeding from the head. Paramedics were called, but the

man was pronounced dead at the scene.

Officers Jose Pubill, Susan Nangle, Victor Silveira, Ed Robles, John Tozzini, Dave Nakasu, and Mark Stull responded to calls to police. Neighbors directed them to the back yards on the 100 block of Jersey, where the 29-year-old man had fled and was hiding behind a bush. (See this month's Letters section.)

Police detained the man, who witnesses placed on the Church Street landing in a verbal argument with the victim, who was seen "arching his back over the railing" and then falling backwards, as he tried but failed to grab the railing to stop his fall. According to witnesses, the detained man yelled that an ambulance be called, and then ran from the building into the Jersey Street back yards.

Although he was booked on murder, the charge was dismissed and he was sent to Placerville on a \$20,000 drug warrant.

The Ugly Face of Domestic Violence

A man who followed his estranged wife to her new home on the 100 block of Clipper Street on Monday, July 3, at 5:20 p.m., and then began to argue with her, was detained by local police after they learned the man had made a death threat and assault against his wife in South San Francisco. Officers Dave Dorantes, Jose Jimenez, and Anthony Holder responded to the incident, and transported both the woman and her husband to South City for an interview.

A 33-year-old man who threatened to kill his former girlfriend and who vandalized her halfway house on the 1300 block of Sanchez Street, was arrested on Monday, July 10, at 8:15 p.m. He was charged and immediately pled guilty to misdemeanor threats. After serving eight days in jail, the man was placed on three years' probation.

A 25-year-old man who assaulted his 26-year-old girlfriend on Tuesday, July 13, at 10:30 a.m., while on the 3800 block of 24th Street, was arrested by police and booked on felony battery.

Officers Barbara Pinelli, Mike Celis, and Paul Weggenmann, along with Sergeant Nick Rubino, responded to the 911 call. Officer Weggenmann followed the suspect into an alley north of 23rd Street near Church Street, where he and Officer Celis caught the man. The woman was apparently subject to such an intense battering by the suspect that she first told the reporting officers that she could not remember being hit by him. Luckily, several people working nearby witnessed the assault and provided statements, including, "That guy beat the shit out of that poor girl." A restraining order was issued, barring the suspect from contact with the woman. The suspect was booked at county jail, held for one day, then released with no further charges.

A 33-year-old woman was assaulted by her estranged husband after he visited with their children at her home on the 600 block of Elizabeth Street on Saturday, July 29, at 10:45 p.m. According to the woman and a witness, the man became angry at what he perceived as their late return to the house after dinner. He threw a cordless phone at her, missed, then he grabbed her, shook her, and pushed her backwards. He had already fled in his car by the time police arrived. Officers Nick Bettencourt and Tessa Escobar later secured an emergency protective order, temporarily barring the suspect from any contact with the woman and children.

Fat May Be Beautiful, But Graffiti Is Illegal

My partner, Officer Lorraine Lombardo, wrote up the following report of vandalism to the weight-loss center Lite for Life, located at 1300 Sanchez St.

On Saturday, Aug. 12, the owner of Lite for Life found "Fat Is Beautiful" painted in large letters on the sidewalk in

front of her store and "Fat People Are Sexy" painted in a 10-foot-by-4-foot area on the side of her building. The owner photographed and then immediately cleaned the graffiti from her property.

Bats Belong at Ball Games

A 23-year-old woman used a baseball bat and strong words to threaten a 41-year-old man near his home on the 4100 block of Cesar Chavez Street on Tuesday, July 4, at 11 a.m.

Officers Ben Manning, Susan Nangle, and Ray Salvador arrested the woman after locating her at the nearby house of her father. She was booked at county jail and charged with one count of felony threats, which the district attorney rebooked as eight misdemeanor charges, including threats, battery, and possession of a deadly weapon. The suspect was released on bond the same day as her arrest, and a judge subsequently issued a stay-away order, barring her from contact with the man she had threatened.

Off-Duty Officer Fingers Bad Guy

When off-duty Officer James O'Malley saw a man scoping out cars along the 4200 block of 25th Street, he didn't keep going on his way. He stopped and watched, long and hard, until the man made himself a suspect by breaking into a parked car in clear view of the officer. But when Officer O'Malley identified himself, the man fled and the chase was on. Both men ran down the hill toward Noe. When the suspect reached the Noe and Jersey intersection, he threw himself to the ground, face down, and complied with the officer's commands.

Officers Patricia Brown and Susan Nangle then arrived, took custody of the suspect, and booked him at county jail. Since he was on parole, the district attorney declined to rebook him. Instead, he sent him to San Quentin, where he'll have a parole revocation hearing that may result in up to a year of state prison.

He Wasn't Doing His Laundry

A 27-year-old man was arrested after a witness reported his breaking into the washing-machine coin boxes at Laundry Mat at 1598 Castro St. on Wednesday, July 5, at 11:20 a.m.

Continued on Next Page

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POLICE BEAT

Continued from Previous Page

Officers Leo Sevilla and Martin Loo responded to the call, took the subject into custody, and also found that he was under the influence of narcotics and in possession of possible methamphetamines. He was booked at county jail on three felonies and two misdemeanors. He was held for one day, then released on his own recognizance.

Where Are They Now?

Charges against two men involved in an April incident on the 1200 block of Castro, which began as a noise complaint of a loud party and ended with their arrests for obstructing an officer, were dropped. One man received a dismissal, and the other was exonerated.

The 24-year-old man convicted of burglary on the 1000 block of Dolores from an April 1999 incident pled guilty and was sentenced to two years in state prison.

Changing of the Guard

This month at Mission Station saw the promotion of Captain Gregory Suhr to commander in charge of the Special Operations Division, which includes Tactical, Canine, EOD (Bomb Squad), and Off-Road Motorcycles. Before leading Mission Station for five years, Commander Suhr served as one of our day watch lieutenants. His roots run deep in the Mission, and the 120 officers assigned here wish him well.

Meanwhile, we welcome Captain Ron Roth, who hails from the Bayview District and who shares a practice with the

Philadelphia police commissioner: Our new captain has his own department mountain bike and is known to ride his district. So if you see a tall, slim man astride a blue Trek bicycle, wearing a navy blue police uniform with two gold bars (railroad tracks) on his collar, be sure to greet Captain Roth.

Women Celebrate 25 Years

You may not know that September marks the 25th anniversary of SFPD women on patrol. Women first entered the San Francisco Police Department in 1975, via two academy classes. Since then, we have risen to the rank of deputy chief. (For details, go to www.sfpda.org and read Sally DeHaven's story, "Department Firsts Achieved by Female Officers.")

To celebrate, Mayor Willie Brown will present a proclamation honoring the contributions of SFPD women in a City Hall ceremony on Sept. 6 (4:30 p.m.). Next, we will take ourselves to Pac Bell Park on Sunday, Sept. 10, to cheer the Giants in a 1 p.m. game against the San Diego Padres. (Come join us.) As a grand finale, we will gather at the Westin St. Francis on Friday, Sept. 15, for an evening of dinner and dancing, with mistress of ceremonies Sharon Stone. Of course, the obligatory T-shirts with our 25th anniversary logo will be available to all those of you who know a cop!

As I enter my 17th year on patrol, I wish the best to my fellow officers and extend a heartfelt congratulations to all the women of the SFPD. Here's to our 25th year on patrol! □

San Francisco Police Officer Lois Perillo covers her Noe Valley beat—from Valencia to Grand View and 21st to Cesar Chavez—on foot and on bicycle. If you would like to discuss a crime or safety problem, call her at 558-5404, the community policing line at Mission Station.

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SHORT TAKES

Supe Candidates Seek Endorsement from Demos

Four candidates for supervisor from District 8—which includes Noe Valley, the Castro, Glen Park, and Diamond Heights—will make their pitch to the Noe Valley Democratic Club at a special Candidates and Issues Night on Wednesday, Sept. 13, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. The meeting, which is open to the public, starts at 7 p.m.

Thus far, the candidates for supervisor who have accepted invitations to address the club are Eileen Hansen, Mark Leno, Shawn O'Hearn, and Gary Virginia. Club members will also hear from candidates for San Francisco school board and community college board.

In addition, the club will hear pro and con speakers on a number of ballot initiatives, including two hotly contested slow-growth measures, Propositions K and L. Prop. K, supported by Mayor Willie Brown, was put on the ballot in response to Prop. L, a citizens' initiative that will place strict limits on office (particularly dot-com) development in the Mission and other neighborhoods.

Other initiatives to be discussed include Prop. A (library bonds), Prop. F (Saturday closure of JFK Drive), Prop. H (pass-through of capital improvements to tenants), and Prop. R (policy declaration on development at Pier 45).

"It's going to be a busy night," says Dave Monks, president of the club. "A representative from the Gore-Lieberman campaign will also be there, for people who want to get involved with the presidential election." If you have questions, give Monks a call at 821-4087.

Be a Friend to a Foster Kid

Who speaks for the abused, neglected, and abandoned kids who are working their way through the foster care system in San Francisco? Could it be you?

In San Francisco, there are more than 3,400 children seeking foster care. Often they are thrust into an overburdened court system where a judge is forced to make a hasty decision about their future. They usually have no adult in their lives looking out for them on a regular basis.

The San Francisco Court Appointed Special Advocate Program (SFCASA) gives these kids a voice in court through finding, training, and supervising community volunteers. The volunteers act as advocates and mentors for the children as they make their way through the maze of the San Francisco Juvenile Dependency Courts (foster care). Men and people of color are especially needed.

Training for volunteer advocates will begin Oct. 3 and run for eight evenings and one Saturday—40 hours in total. For an application or to find out more about SFCASA, call 398-8001, ext. 104, or visit the web site www.sfcasa.com.

Learn How to Do a Scottish Strathspey

September means back to school—Scottish Country Dancing School, that is. And this September starts the San Francisco Scottish Country Dancers' 15th year at the Noe Valley Ministry. You don't need a partner to come and learn how to do the lively jigs and reels, or the slower, more elegant strathspeys. The dancing is energetic social dancing in groups, done to fiddle and piano or band music.

Two classes are held simultaneously every Thursday at 8 p.m., one for beginners and one for experienced dancers. At the end of the evening, the two classes

join together for more dancing and refreshments. Parties are held monthly, and formal balls are held three times a year.

There'll be an introductory party on Thursday, Sept. 14, at 8 p.m. for \$2. Then you can sign up for the first class on Thursday, Sept. 21, for \$6, or for the whole eight-class series for \$40.

The Noe Valley Ministry is located at 1021 Sanchez St. For more information, call 333-9372 or 841-9456, or check out www.rscds-sf.org. (By the way, all teachers are certified by the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society in Scotland.)

Low-Income Seniors Get On-the-Job Training

For some of us, no matter how hot the economy is, it's still hard to find a job. Older people in particular often need to learn new skills or upgrade current skills to re-enter or remain in the work force. The Workforce Development Program of the National Council on the Aging, a San Francisco-based group, is trying to correct that situation. Its mission is to develop job opportunities for low-income residents age 55 and above.

Clients join with counselors to create their own employment strategy, which involves taking a part-time training assignment at one of 150 local nonprofit community service agencies. This assignment lasts for six months, while the client is actively looking for a permanent job. Clients also get pre-employment counseling, resume help, and other guidance from the program's counselors.

To take advantage of the program, stop in and visit the council's office any weekday between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. (no appointment necessary), or call 982-7007. The Council on the Aging is located at 870 Market St. (near Powell), Suite 785.

Hospice Training Starts in September

MidPeninsula and Pathways Hospice Services is looking for caring volunteers to help patients and their families successfully manage end-of-life care in their own homes. Companionship, practical help, and emotional support are the things you can provide to one or more families in your own community, maybe even Noe Valley.

Training in San Francisco is coming up in mid-September, and consists of three Monday evenings and one Saturday.

For more information and an application, call 650-947-4271, or call the toll-free number 888-755-7855.



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The Warm Days of a San Francisco summer are just right for learning colors and smells and standing upright. Amy and 18-month old-Michael of Glen Park know that it's even better with bare feet.

Photo by Jesse Gould



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Noe Valley's Tom Redmond Makes Captain

By Lillian Brown

San Francisco Sheriff Michael Hennessey recently promoted Noe Valley native son Tom Redmond to the rank of captain during a special ceremony at City Hall.

Redmond, 56, is facility commander at the San Francisco County Jail in San Bruno, which currently houses 550 prisoners. "The San Bruno County Jail is the oldest operating jail in California. It was built in 1935," says Redmond. "I make sure that the jail runs efficiently."

Redmond has deep roots in Noe Valley, which he describes as "an extraordinarily friendly place where people talk to you as you walk down the street and the merchants greet you by name."

Born and raised at the corner of Hoffman and Alvarado streets, Redmond has never strayed far from his Noe Valley home. He went to school at St. Philip's on Elizabeth Street, where he met his future wife, Alice. They were married at St. Philip's Church on Diamond.

Tom Redmond's parents, Rose and Peter Redmond, still live in Noe Valley, as does his mother-in-law, Frances "Ducky" Newland, who lives in the house where she was born. His father-in-law, Homer Newland, is deceased.

In the 1970s, Redmond moved with his family about five minutes away to Glen Park. However, his life remained centered around Noe Valley. All three of his children—Michael, Cynthia, and Colleen—attended St. Philip's. Redmond dates his years of coaching on the St. Philip's basketball courts to when his kids attended school there. He coached boys' basketball



Noe Valley native Tom Redmond, whose career in San Francisco's Sheriff's Department began in 1966, recently attained the rank of captain.

Photo by Ruth Morgan

at St. Philip's in the early 1980s and girls' basketball from 1993 to 1997. He also served on St. Philip's sports council, parish board, and school board.

Redmond joined the Sheriff's Department in 1966 and worked for many years in the civil division, where he became a recognized expert on the legal and social aspects of eviction, frequently lecturing at area colleges. While moving up through the ranks, he also served as a court bailiff, as a manager of rehabilitation programs, and as an administrator in other jails in the county system.

A self-described "burly Irishman" who chats with inmates and jokes with his deputies as he walks the jail corridors, Capt. Redmond supervises more than 100 people in the San Bruno facility.

"Tom is a versatile and talented leader," Sheriff Hennessey said in awarding Redmond the promotion last spring. "He has an exceptional ability to manage people and deal with crises in a calm and practical manner—qualities that are highly respected and needed in a jail."

Meanwhile in the Redmond family, traditions carry on from one generation to

the next. Tom Redmond's 84-year-old father, Peter Redmond, a retired squadron leader with the San Francisco Fire Department, still takes frequent walks on 24th Street. Tom's son, Michael Redmond, is an officer with the San Francisco Police Department.

And Capt. Redmond and his wife Alice still prefer to shop for their groceries—and their shoes—in Noe Valley. Says Tom, "As far as I'm concerned, Noe Valley is the best area in San Francisco." □

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Summer Brings a Slight Breeze

Noe Valley's superhot real estate market cooled off just a bit during June and July as the summer fog rolled in. Home prices reached the \$1.5 million level in both months, according to statistics provided to the *Voice* by Zephyr Real Estate. But there were no \$2 million sales as there had been in May. Sales also slowed as only 18 residential properties changed hands in July compared to 39 in June. "Still, it's incredible to me that the average sales price for single-family home closings in July was \$949,000, almost a million dollars, and that the average for two- to four-unit buildings was in excess of a million," said Randall Kostick, of Zephyr Real Estate. "That's very high."

Noe Valley home sales underwent a similar lull last summer, then picked up in August and September. "That's already starting to happen," said Kostick.

Renters, meanwhile, continue to pay top dollar to enjoy Noe Valley's charm. Apartments in the neighborhood at the beginning of summer were renting for twice as much as they did four years ago, according to Rent Tech Rentals and Roommates.

Noe Valley House Sales—July 2000*

| Total Sales (Closings During Month) | Low Price (\$) | High Price (\$) | Average Price (\$) | Average Days on Market | Sale Price as % of List Price |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Single-family homes | | | | | |
| 7 | 750,000 | 1,505,000 | 949,142 | 18 | 119% |
| Condominiums | | | | | |
| 6 | 299,000 | 680,000 | 468,000 | 30 | 105% |
| 2 to 4 unit buildings | | | | | |
| 5 | 627,002 | 1,575,000 | 1,124,800 | 22 | 109% |
| 5+ unit buildings = 0 | | | | | |

Noe Valley House Sales – June 2000*

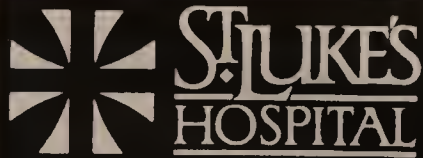
| Total Sales (Closings During Month) | Low Price (\$) | High Price (\$) | Average Price (\$) | Average Days on Market | Sale Price as % of List Price |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Single-family homes | | | | | |
| 15 | 593,000 | 1,550,000 | 903,333 | 16 | 122% |
| Condominiums | | | | | |
| 10 | 450,000 | 1,035,000 | 672,300 | 13 | 116% |
| 2 to 4 unit buildings | | | | | |
| 11 | 555,000 | 1,200,000 | 814,000 | 21 | 114% |
| 5+ unit buildings | | | | | |
| 3 | 950,000 | 1,100,000 | 1,001,666 | 15 | 107% |

Noe Valley Rentals – Second Quarter 2000**

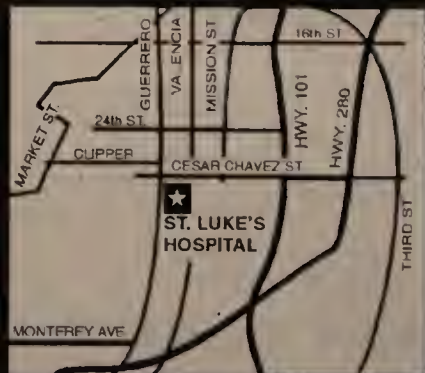
| Apartment Size | Average Rents Today (April–June 2000) | Rents 4 Years Ago (April–June 1996) | % Units Available for Rent in Noe Valley |
|---------------------------|--|--|---|
| Studio | \$ 1,211 / mo. | \$ 663 / mo. | 9% |
| 1 bedroom | 1,808 / mo. | 947 / mo. | 25% |
| 2 bedrooms | 2,713 / mo. | 1,436 / mo. | 40% |
| 3 or more bedrooms | 3,305 / mo. | 2,027 / mo. | 25% |

*Information provided to the *Noe Valley Voice* courtesy of Zephyr Real Estate (www.zephyr-re.com) and based on actual Noe Valley home sales (closings) recorded during the months of June and July 2000. Noe Valley is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets.

**Data based on all Noe Valley rentals listed by Rent Tech Rentals and Roommates (www.renttech.com) during April–June 2000, and for the same period in 1996.



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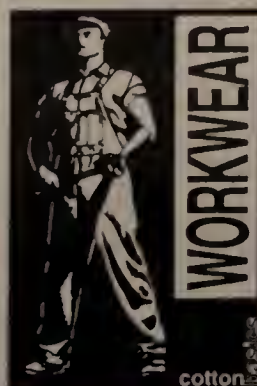
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Gone But Not Forgotten

My Back Yard

By Eileen Collins Spiers

Every time I approach the intersection of 22nd and Noe streets, I swear I can hear the voices of children laughing and shouting. One of those voices is my own—Noe Valley was the neighborhood of my early childhood. The freedom we city kids had, even during the rebellious 1960s, is unknown today. We were free to explore our neighborhood and interact with its residents as though it were an extension of our own back yard.

My brother and two sisters could rarely be found at our home at 913 Noe St. More likely, we were off visiting one of our neighbors, particularly if they had children.

There were the Gallaghers, Murphys, Glynnys, Flynnys, Gomezes, Cotters, Chapots, and Hanifins, to name a few. Definitely an Irish influence with a dash of Latin. My own family was among the leftover Irish in Noe Valley after so many had made an exodus to the fog-shrouded but more residential Sunset District.

Summertime provided us with the most freedom. We made full use of neighborhood parks. Before my siblings and I set out for the day, we often stopped at Mark's Grocery at 22nd and Noe, where for 35 cents we bought French-roll sandwiches with freshly sliced bologna and Shasta orange sodas. Then, armed with our lunches, we marched across Noe Valley, trekking up and down the hills to Douglass Park at 26th and Douglass. There we spent hours clambering over the park's steep, dusty hills and climbing its tall pine trees like monkeys.

On other days, we hiked to "Nickel Pool"—it cost just a nickel—at 19th and Linda streets in the Mission. On route to the pool, we descended the precipitous 22nd Street "step hill," crept along the J-Church streetcar tracks that snaked behind the houses, and then chased each other across the grassy slopes of Dolores Park, still wet from the morning sprinklers. Being young and daring, we always signed up for the earliest swimming lessons offered by the Red Cross in the Mission's open-air, unheated pool. I get goosebumps just thinking about those chilly mornings.

Summer evenings meant that the neighborhood boys would converge at the intersection of Noe and Alvarado to play baseball. Back then there was so little traffic, a baseball game could actually be played in the middle of the intersection.

Home base was always on the southwestern curb so that the balls would be hit up the Noe hill. Still, countless balls went foul, either rolling all the way down Noe to 24th Street or, worse yet, crashing through a nearby Victorian window. Of course, the game always went forward despite the exasperation of the neighbors.

Although living on a steep hill was sometimes a hindrance to our diversions, we kids often took advantage of its grade by finding the fastest way to slide, roll, or glide down it. We soaped, oiled, and even rubbed ice plant on any piece of cardboard or wood board we could find. To get an effective start, we would push off from the short cement mounds buttressing a few of the drive-



The Collins family gathers in their living room at 913 Noe St., circa 1964. Back row: Uncle David, parents Tess and Peter, Aunt Chris. Front row: Jerry, Patricia, Anne, and Eileen.

Photo courtesy Eileen Collins Spiers

ways, then slide and twirl down Noe as if we were saucers in the snow, until we bounced off the Alvarado Street curb, screaming until we were slowed by the sudden flatness of the cross street.

For further excitement, or to simply make us beg for mercy, my brother, Jerry, used to take us for rides on the back of his motorcycle up the 22nd Street step hill starting down at Church Street. That was, of course, before the hill was turned into a one-way street in the downhill direction. I would be on the back of the motorcycle, extremely vertical, with the forces of gravity pulling me backwards, seeing my life pass before my eyes. My brother, mean-

we headed over toward Hill Street, haunted by old ladies who handed out cold, refreshing bottles of Coca-Cola and warm popcorn balls wrapped in waxed paper.

One Halloween night—I think it was 1968—a couple of the Gallagher girls and I stopped by an apartment at 892 Noe at the corner of 22nd, above the coin-operated laundry. Here we knew Janis Joplin had taken up residence because we had often seen her enter the building after emerging from her '65 Porche with the custom psychedelic paint job (the "hippiemobile"), which she parked out front on Noe. With every ounce of courage we could muster, a



Eileen Collins, left, with mom Tess and sister Anne, shows off her dancing costume in this 1968 photo. Eileen and her sisters often performed Irish dances in Noe Valley taverns.

Photo courtesy Eileen Collins Spiers

while, is enjoying the intense fright he has inflicted and is already heading back to Noe Street to seek his next victim.

Halloween, my favorite holiday, again found us traipsing through the neighborhood dressed as fairy princesses, pirates, or hobos in search of treats. It was a night of protracted walking and stair-climbing. Always on the agenda was a stop at the notoriously spooky Tagle Haunted House, on Castro between Alvarado and 22nd. This spectacle drew hundreds of children each year for some hair-raising encounters with vampires, witches, ghosts, and goblins. After we reclaimed our wits,

couple of us rang her doorbell and were invited up into her apartment. We entered a world scented with exotic incense and swathed in bright fabric with plenty of beaded fringe. I can't remember if she actually was prepared to give us any treats, but she was very gracious, and frankly we were too star-struck at that point to care. We left running and giggling down the stairs ready to exclaim to all we encountered, "Oh my God, we met Janis!"

To top off most Halloween nights, we would stop by to see Bud, at Bud's Ice Cream at the corner of 24th and Castro streets. He always gave us a cone with a swirl of soft vanilla ice cream. Bud's is

just one of several 24th Street businesses we regularly visited during the '60s. Others included the Glen Five & Ten, Meyer's Variety, and Eleanor Rodriguez's Beauty Salon, where my mother would arrange for us to get the always dreaded, boyish-looking "Pixie" haircuts. Of course, there were the Irish bars, such as Murphy's Irish Inn (which eventually became Finnegan's Wake, then the Rat & Raven, and now the Coyote), the Cork-N-Bottle, and the Valley Cavern (now the Dubliner). Let's just say I had my share of Shirley Temples in these establishments, particularly at Murphy's, where my father took us after mass on Sundays. On St. Patrick's Day we were beseeched to entertain the patrons with our Irish dancing.

Noe Valley has changed in many ways since my childhood. Its sky-high real estate prices attest to its popularity with the dot-com set. And unfortunately, the streets that were once owned by children playing baseball, dodge ball, and Red Rover are now dominated by traffic. Yet, whenever I come back to Noe Valley, I can't help but remember the days when a child's whole neighborhood was her back yard. □

Eileen Collins Spiers lived on Noe Street from 1963 to 1970, at which time her family moved near Mt. Davidson. She now lives in the Forest Hill area of San Francisco with her husband Brendan and their two daughters. You can e-mail her at espiers@peoplepc.com.

Gone But Not Forgotten

The Noe Valley Voice would like to publish your recollections of people, places, and things from Noe Valley's past. Mail your manuscript, which should be under 1,000 words, to Gone But Not Forgotten, Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or send an email version (not an attachment, please) to javvoice@aol.com. Thank you.

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My de Young

I love this painting by William McCloskey. Look at that peeled orange! Can't you imagine taking a bite and letting the juice run down your chin? I can't wait to celebrate my 62nd anniversary of visiting the de Young, when I come for opening day in 2004.



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Noe Homes & Gardens

The Little Tree That Could

By Jean Taggart

Several years ago, the garden editor for *Sunset Magazine* asked readers to write about their experiences growing dwarf citrus trees. The request inspired me to write the following letter, which I just unearthed and would like to share with my Noe Valley neighbors. My little orange tree has been sitting on my deck on 22nd Street since 1974.

September, 1984

Dear Garden Editor:

Today I just happened to see your April edition, in which you asked for stories about citrus trees grown in small containers. (It sometimes takes me that long to read all my *Sunsets* and cut out what I want to save.) I do wish I had seen it then; I would have enclosed a picture of a very healthy four-foot Valencia orange tree loaded with fruit. Unfortunately, right now my tree is going through a crisis, which I think it will survive, but I thought you might be interested in its history.

I grew up on a citrus ranch on California's Feather River. One of my earliest memories is walking hand in hand with my father through the orchards he loved, breathing the heady fragrance of the blossoms, touching the glossy green leaves, and marveling at the oranges covering the trees like so many bright ornaments. Undoubtedly, that is why I decided to acquire my own orange tree in my late 30s — to relive a part of my childhood.

I bought my spindly seedling for 98 cents at a nursery in 1958. Its first container was a 10-inch clay pot. I placed it on my fairly sheltered and fairly sunny (except for foggy days) deck in the Haight-Ashbury section of San Francisco.

The tree moved with me to Belvedere Island in Marin in 1960, to a deck that had filtered sun only. Because it was still spindly, I twist-tied its espaliered branches to a redwood trellis, and it soon grew into a graceful little tree.

For several years it blossomed faithfully, and just as faithfully lost every small orange that it bore. Then the tree and I moved to a sunnier deck on the leeward side of the island. It thrived in this new home, but still refused to keep its fruit.

Then in 1971, my little tree moved back to the city, to the back yard of a friend who had promised to water it. Alas, the friend proved false, and the poor tree had almost died by the time I rescued it and moved it to a sunny (except for those foggy days) garden in the Western Addition. I felt so guilty about abandoning my charge that I repotted it and cared for it with special devotion. Miraculously, it recovered, resuming its naturally round shape.



Sometimes, despite our best efforts, our collective wisdom, and our abject devotion, a tree will manage to survive, and even bear fruit. Photo by Charles Kennard

In 1974, I bought my present house on the slope of the Castro Street hill in the Noe Valley neighborhood. My large deck faces south and is pretty well sheltered from the prevailing westerly winds and the winter southerlies (unless the winds are unusually strong). My little tree is nestled in a large clay pot against the wall in the most sheltered part of the deck. It soaks up the sun all day long, all year long.

But now I must confess that it has been subjected to two more traumas over the most recent decade. The first occurred when I lost my balance on a small ladder, fell against the tree, and almost tore off one limb (the tree's, not mine). I made a crude splint and it worked—the limb healed itself.

The second came during the California drought of the early '80s. A member of my household overdosed it with fertilizer because the leaves were turning yellow. He confessed to his mistake when the tree began to shed leaves as fast as a person losing hair to chemotherapy. I frantically leached it with buckets of water and repotted it. Luckily, the tree revived, sprouting a full head of healthy leaves and blossoms.

Another miracle occurred three years ago when at the advanced age of 23 my tree not only blossomed but actually held on to its fruit. The first crop was about 15 small very sweet Valencias; the second crop about 25 slightly larger ones (these

were just beginning to turn orange). The third crop was an amazing number of tiny green oranges, which I planned to thin out when they were a bit larger.

Which brings us to the present chapter of this brave and truly stubborn little tree, now almost 26 years old. Last month, the leaves began turning yellow again. I called the University of California Agriculture Extension, which confirmed what I thought might be the problem — the tree was root-bound (I had forgotten it had been 10 years in the same pot). That, combined with the heat wave we had last month, likely led to its dehydration — despite my conscientious watering.

I immediately transplanted it into a half wine barrel, but the strong winds we had two weeks ago (right after the heat wave) blew most of the remaining leaves off. I am now giving it a high-nitrogen fertilizer, thanks to your new information on this, and it seems to be holding its own.

Unfortunately, I have lost some of the larger crop, which are sweet but not quite as juicy as they would have been if I could have left them on the tree. I have also lost some of the new little oranges, despite minimal damage to the root ball in transplanting.

I doubt my story is a very good example of how best to cultivate and care for a dwarf citrus tree in a container, but at least it shows that one little orange tree

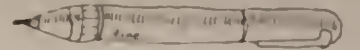
can weather more than 25 years of trauma and still reward its undeserving caretaker with sweet delicious fruit.

Sincerely,
Jean Taggart

EPILOGUE: Not only did my little tree once more regain its health and produce sweet juicy Valencias for several years after that 1984 letter, but—in the year 2000 at the age of 42—it still blossoms and even produces a few oranges in its Noe Valley home. I am finally treating it with the care it should have received during its first three decades. If my father were here to read this tale, he would be alternately laughing and shaking his head. But he also would admire the resiliency of his favorite fruit tree. I now see it as my special obligation to his memory to keep this little orange tree alive for at least the rest of my own life! □

Jean Taggart, 81, is a writer whose latest book project is "Taylor Street Tales," a fictionalized memoir of the 1940s in San Francisco. She is also a past contributor to the Noe Valley Voice.

The Noe Valley Voice welcomes your anecdotes and essays, particularly those pertaining to Noe Valley. Mail your manuscript, which should be under 1,000 words, to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or send an email version (not an attachment, please) to javvoice@aol.com. Thank you.



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SEPTEMBER 2000



NOW: NOE KNITTERS, a social knitting group, meets at 228 Clipper St. Call 282-2256 for times.

NOW: The "Blankets for the Needy" class at the 30th Street Senior Center needs VOLUNTEERS to make patchwork blankets for homeless and/or abused women and children. Sewing experience isn't necessary. For information call Lee Bloom at 665-6345.

NOW: For its Oct. 1, 2000, potluck picnic REUNION, the San Francisco Community School needs to hear from former students, parents, and staff. Call Alice Lucas, 731-3623, or Eunice Rosenberg, 648-7713, or Florence Hitchcock at 648-3689.

SEPT. 1: Noe Valley PHOTOGRAPHER and mixed-media artist Susan LaFranchi-Madonich is one of 12 artists featured in the exhibit "Eye of the Beholder." Reception 7–11 pm. City Art Cooperative Gallery, 828 Valencia St. 970-9900.

SEPT. 1–12: In "Elemental Forms," Carol Badran shows new works in RAKU and high-fire clay, and George Melnikoff exhibits his glass work. Reception Sept. 8, 6:30–9 pm. Ruby's Clay Studio and Gallery, 552A Noe St. 558-9819.

SEPT. 1–29: Chris Sequiera leads T'AI CHI classes Mon. and Tues., 6 to 7:30 pm, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.; and Wed. and Fri. from 10:15 am to noon in Douglass Park, Douglass and 27th. 773-8185.

SEPT. 2 & 3: The National Ensemble THEATER FESTIVAL features works by seven companies from five states. A Traveling Jewish Theater, 470 Florida St. Call 399-1809 for a schedule.

SEPT. 2, 3 & 4: The San Francisco MIME TROUPE performs *Eating It*, a satirical examination of market-driven genetic engineering. 2 pm. Dolores Park. 285-1717.

SEPT. 2, 3, 9 & 10: St. Paul's School of Religion offers REGISTRATION for children in public or non-Catholic private schools, classes begin Sept. 16, 9:30–11 am. For info, call Dorothy Vigna at the Rectory. 648-7538.

SEPT. 2–OCT. 1: Longtime Noe Valley resident Charles McCue is the producing director of the S.F. SHAKE-SPEARE FESTIVAL. *King Henry IV, Part 2* will be performed free in Golden Gate Park, Saturdays and Sundays at 1:30 pm. For information, call 422-2222.

SEPT. 5: "Yoga Practices for ASTHMATICS" offers natural healing techniques to increase breathing capacity. 6–9 pm. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 821-1117.

SEPT. 5, 12 & 19: Preschool STORY TIME, a read-aloud program for children 3 to 5, begins at 10 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

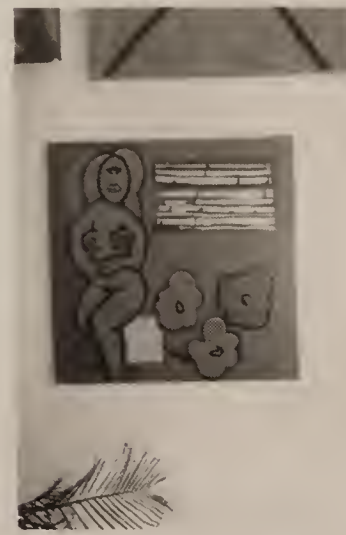
SEPT. 6: KATIE ALVORD discusses the alternatives to driving in *Divorce Your Car*. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, near BART and Muni lines, 888 Valencia St., with a bike rack in front. 282-9246.

SEPT. 6 & 13: The S.F. City Chorus is holding AUDITIONS for Nov. 17 and 19 performances of Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* and Richard Coventry's *Unknown Region*, to be rehearsed Wednesdays, 7 to 9:30 pm, at the Lakeside Presbyterian Church, 201 Eucalyptus St. Call 765-7664 for appointment.

SEPT. 6, 13, 20 & 27: The Noe Valley Library holds LAPSITS for infants and toddlers, and their parents. 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

SEPT. 7–9: Community Music Center registers new students, of all ages and skills, for fall MUSIC CLASSES. By appointment only, call 647-6015.

SEPT. 7–9: The Roxie Theater screens over two dozen films, including controversial documentaries and a retrospective of Egyptian musicals, in "Cinemayaat," an ARAB FILM FESTIVAL. For a schedule, call 564-1100.



"The Art of Feng Shui," an exhibition featuring works by Tim Gaskin, comes to Belcher Studio Gallery Sept. 8–10.

SEPT. 8–10: The 36th annual BOOK SALE to support branch libraries is sponsored by the Friends and Foundation of the San Francisco Library. 10 am–6 pm, Friday and Saturday, 10 am–3:30 pm, Sunday. Herbst Pavilion, Fort Mason Center. 437-4857.

SEPT. 8–10: Painter Tim Gaskin exhibits FENG SHUI-inspired pop art. Reception and an introduction to *feng shui* by specialist Nancy Linebarger, Sept. 9, 6–9 pm. Gallery hours: Fri., 6–9 pm, Sat. and Sun., noon–4 pm. Belcher Studio Gallery, 69 Belcher St. 1-800-322-5038.

SEPT. 9: An ORGAN CONCERT by Charles Rus includes works by Franck, Buxtehude, Bohm, Sweelinck, and Bach. 5 pm. The Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist, 1661 15th St. 861-1436.

SEPT. 10: The Friends of Noe Valley POTLUCK PICNIC invites one and all to bring some food to share; drinks, plates, and utensils provided. 11 am–2 pm. On the deck of the Noe Valley Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St.

SEPT. 10: TRANSGENDER ACTIVISTS are panelists for a discussion at the monthly support group meeting of PFLAG. 2–4 pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church St. 921-8850.

SEPT. 10: In 1978, Congress proclaimed the first Sunday after Labor Day to be National GRANDPARENTS' DAY.

SEPT. 12, 19 & 26: Lauren Coleman's Hip City JAZZ DANCE class meets Tuesdays at 6 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2782.

SEPT. 13: The Noe Valley Democratic Club sponsors a District 8 CANDIDATES' FORUM, a discussion of propositions on the November ballot, and a visit from a representative of the Gore-Lieberman campaign. 7 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez, 821-4087.

SEPT. 13 & 27: Taught by a scholar in the field, "KABABALA" introduces ancient mysteries for benefits in everyday life. 7–9 pm. Array of Light, 4291 24th St. 642-9249.

SEPT. 14: U.S. SURGEON GENERAL David T. Satcher inaugurates the Center for Health and Community. 2–5 pm. UCSF, 513 Parnassus Ave., Cole Hall. 476-7408.

SEPT. 14: A BALLET WORKSHOP, for ages 6 to 9, begins at 4 pm at the Excelsior Branch Library. 4400 Mission St. Call 337-4735 for a reservation.

SEPT. 14: TRASH BASH at the Randall Museum is a permanent exhibition about recycling; the opening reception features hands-on art projects and refreshments. 6–8 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

SEPT. 14: The Jewish Community Center hosts an INTERFAITH WORKSHOP for couples, "Understanding the Jewish High Holy Days," in preparation for Rosh Hashanah, Sept. 30 to Oct. 1, and Yom Kippur, Oct. 8 to 9. 7–9 pm. Congregation Emanu-el, 2 Lake St. Register at 292-1252.

SEPT. 14 & 21: A SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE party on the 14th offers an introduction to the lively jigs and reels taught at a class beginning Sept. 21. No partner needed; bring flat shoes. 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 333-9372.



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CALENDAR



SEPT. 16: Noe Valley HISTORY DAY features photographs, memorabilia, music, and a 3 pm performance of magic, comedy, and juggling by Heather the Court Jester. 2–5 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

SEPT. 16: Celebrate HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH with the Galo Colorado Puppet Theater, performing for all ages. 4:30 pm. Glen Park Library, 653 Chenery St. 337-4340.

SEPT. 16: The Coalition of Concerned Legal Professionals and Ora Prochank of New College Housing Clinic present a discussion of TENANTS' RIGHTS. 4 pm. Potrero Branch Library, 1616 20th St. For info, call CCLP at 614-0978.

SEPT. 17: The third annual BIKE FAIR features maintenance demonstrations, urban cycling skills, a raffle, and a kids' bicycle rodeo. Noon–3 pm. Peacock Meadow, Golden Gate Park. 553-1984.

SEPT. 19: Ingleside Station Captain Marsha P. Ashe of the SFPD hosts a forum on DOGS in public parks, with representatives from Rec and Park and Animal Control. 7–8 pm. Ingleside Community Room, 1 Sergeant John V. Young Lane. 553-1602.

SEPT. 19: "Achieving Personal Excellence" is a MEDITATION seminar taught by Mayuri Mandel and sponsored by the Sri Chinmoy Center. 7 pm. Bethany Church, 201 Clipper St. 664-1327.

SEPT. 19: "Earth Angels Jammin'" features solo and group IMPROVISATIONAL movement theater. 8 pm. Venue 9, 252 9th St. 289-2000.

SEPT. 19–JAN. 30: DOCENT TRAINING at the Strybing Arboretum in Golden Gate Park focuses on learning about the gardens and plant collections. Call 661-1316, ext. 312, for requirements and registration.

SEPT. 20–22: DANCER/choreographers Stephanie Schaaf and Sue Roginski perform "In Your House." 8 pm. ODC Theater, 3153 17th St. 863-9834.

SEPT. 21: Medium Tricia Hollenberg's RELATIONSHIP CLINIC uses tarot archotyping to determine one's perfect match. 7 to 9:45 pm. Array of Light, 4291 24th St. 642-9249.

SEPT. 21: RUTHANN LUM MCCUNN discusses her new novel, *The Moon Pearl*. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

SEPT. 21 & 28: A Parent's Place discussion, "RAISING BOYS," examines the pleasures and trials of "boy energy." 10:30 am–noon. 3272 California St. 563-1041.

SEPT. 23: Support the newly organized San Francisco chapter of the anti-violence MILLION MOM MARCH by wearing your MMM T-shirt today. For more information, go to www.millionmommarch.org.

SEPT. 23: The Randall Museum harvests its own honey at HONEY HARVEST 2000, a chance to learn (and taste) what the bees have been up to. 10 am–3 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

SEPT. 23: Mary Twomey, director of the S.F. Consortium on Aging, discusses ELDER ABUSE at the monthly meeting of the Older Women's League (OWL). 10:30 am–12:15 pm. Call 989-4422 for location.

SEPT. 23 & 24: The 28th annual San Francisco BLUES FESTIVAL, founded and produced by Noe Valley resident Tom Mazzolini, features an impressive lineup of performers. 11 am–6 pm. Great Meadow at Fort Mason. Call 979-5588 for information.

SEPT. 23 & 24: A PSYCHIC HEALING FAIR features massage, healing crystals, and psychic readings. Noon–5 pm. Array of Light, 4291 24th St. 642-9249.



Keb' Mo' is among the dozens of performers at this year's San Francisco Blues Festival (Sept. 23–24), the brainchild of Noe Valley resident Tom Mazzolini. Photo by Frank Ockenfels.

SEPT. 23–OCT. 15: Lunatique Fantastique performs "Objects in Predicaments: A PUPPET SHOW." Sat. and Sun., 1:30 pm. The Growing Stage, the Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. 826-5750, ext. 2.

SEPT. 24: Mezzo-soprano Heather Antonissin and pianist Bryan Baker perform a CONCERT of works by Brahms, Chausson, Barber, and Rossini. 4 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

SEPT. 24: Emceed by Tom Amico and SALSA AND SOUL 2000 features jazz singer Paula West and the Roberto Quintana band. To benefit the Integrative Center for Culture and Healing at St. Luke's Hospital. 4–8 pm. Roccapulco Supper Club, 3140 Mission St. 249-9194.

SEPT. 24: The Native American Cultural Center's first annual AUTUMN EQUINOX celebration runs from 5 to 10 pm. Cate Cocomo, 650 Juliana St. 406-6332.

SEPT. 26: Preschoolers ages 3 to 5 can watch FILMS at 10 and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

SEPT. 26: The Integral Yoga Institute hosts a workshop, "HATHA YOGA Modifications for Back Care." 6–8 pm. 770 Dolores St. 821-1117.

SEPT. 26: NICK BANTOCK, author of the *Griffin & Sabine* trilogy, introduces his new book, *The Artful Dodger: Images and Reflections*. 6–7:45 pm. Main Library, Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin St. 557-4277.

SEPT. 27: A coalition of four community groups, including SPUR and the Neighborhood Parks Council, holds a District 8 SUPERVISOR CANDIDATES' DEBATE. 7–9 pm. Harvey Milk Academy, 4235 19th St. 241-6276.

SEPT. 28: The president of the Guild of St. Francis, Michael J. Cook, discusses the history and architecture of Grace Cathedral and its Ghiberti doors in the San Francisco History Association's SLIDE LECTURE "The Doors of Paradise." 7 pm. Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 678 Portola Drive. 750-9986.

Night of the Living Deadline

The next *Noe Valley Voice*, the murky October 2000 issue, will descend upon Downtown Noe Valley on or about midnight, Thursday, Sept. 28 (That means Friday, Sept. 29.) Please mail us your calendar items by **Sept. 15**. Noe Valley events take priority, but we'll often let others creep in. Write 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or email the mysterious zabarska@aol.com.

Questions? Call Karol at 285-6347.

SEPT. 28: An adult READING GROUP at the Bernal Heights Library discusses Ella Leffland's *Breath and Shadows*. 4–5:30 pm. 500 Cortland Ave. 695-5160.

SEPT. 28: On Lok's annual "Autumn Magic" dinner and DANCE GALA, with music by Mariano, benefits the 30th Street Senior Center. 5:30–10:30 pm. La Union Española, 2850 Alemany Blvd. For reservations call 292-8732.

SEPT. 29–OCT. 1: ROSH HASHANA services include Sept. 29 at 7 pm; Sept. 30 at 10 am and 7 pm; and Oct. 1 at 10 am, with a Shofar blowing at 11 am. Chabad of Noe Valley, Edison Charter Academy, 3531 22nd St. 267-6926.

SEPT. 29 & 30; OCT. 6–8: The theater arts department at City College presents the MUSICAL *Pippin*, directed by local resident Deborah Shaw. 8 pm, Sun., Oct. 8, 2 pm. Diego Rivera Theater, 50 Phelan Ave. 239-3100.



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Our first annual Best Flower Box in Noe Valley Award goes to Eve Maher at 1579 Dolores St. Every year she fills seven boxes in front of her house. Her millennium selection included lilac and purple petunias, which she paired with fuchsia and blue lobelia, pink verbena, and a touch of orange-pink snapdragon.

"I hope they'll last from March until October," says Maher. She waters every three days, depending on the fog and wind. "You can't overwater petunias." In addition, she fertilizes every 10 days, and deadheads (takes off old blossoms) every day.

People often stop and comment. "Even teenagers have given me compliments," she laughs. "My flowers brighten my day. They're a bit of sunshine for me." They're sunshine for all of us.

Text and photo by Alison Pence

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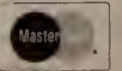
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Back from Everywhere

The peak migration period for Noe Valleons has come to an end. They're back to school and jobs and sending us evidence of their exotic journeys.

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Longtime Noe Valley resident Kevin Wallace found another use for his traveling copy of the Voice. It helped him gain additional privacy while answering nature's call in Grenoble, France.



Alexis Wallace found it hard to tear herself away from the hometown news even with the gorgeous views in France.



Ruby Lyn Beaupre-Hammond (left) and her friend Hannah Byers-Straus, who both study Irish dance at the Noe Valley Ministry, found it easy to feel right at home while on vacation in Connemara, Ireland, this summer.



It's a long way from Noe Valley to New Lothrop, Michigan, but that's Gina's hometown. While experiencing real weather, she and husband Brandon Reif kept a copy of the Voice close at hand.

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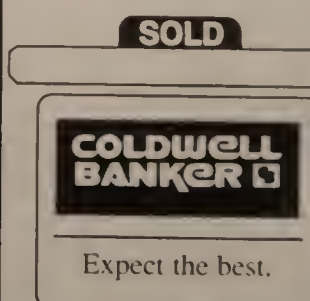
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Noe Valley residents Linda Saytes, Sherrod Blankner, and Susan Sternau (left to right) are among the San Francisco artists participating in this year's Open Studios on Oct. 7 and 8.

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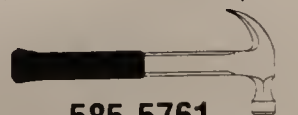
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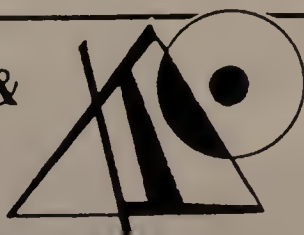
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Summing Up Our Summer

Every fall, friends ask us how we spent our summer vacation, and we almost always answer, "Puttering around the house in Noe Valley." Although most people feel they have to travel somewhere, we—perhaps due to our aging bodies—do not often feel the urge to leave town.

This year we did manage to brave the highways to attend two beautiful family weddings in Grass Valley, one held in our son Jan's garden and another on his cousin Kim's flowering grounds. But the rest of the summer we spent close to home. And why not?

Our fair city has so much to offer that *Modern Maturity*, in its June/July 2000 issue, ranked San Francisco No. 2 among the 50 "most alive places to live" in the United States. (Boston was No. 1.)

My man Leo and I—now both octogenarians—can't hope to indulge in all of the local activities, but we do manage to regularly visit our world-class museums, where there is always something of enduring value to appreciate.

This summer, through September 11, the Asian Art Museum in Golden Gate Park has devoted the entire ground floor to a magnificent exhibition titled "The Golden Age of Chinese Archaeology." There are 240 objects on display, including many jade pieces, lacquerware, silks, ceramics, gold and silver objects, and pottery and sculpture in terra cotta, stone, and bronze. The "Golden Age" refers to the past three decades of archaeological excavation in the People's Republic of China.

The earliest artifacts in the exhibit date from about 5,000 B.C.E. (the abbreviation for Before Common Era, the museum term for B.C.), and the most recent from 1,000 C.E. (Common Era, or A.D.)—spanning 6,000 years of Chinese history.

By the end of the late Neolithic Period (5,000–1,900 B.C.E.), people had already settled along rivers, domesticated the dog and the pig, and were raising sophisticated crops such as rice and millet. Using stone tools, they fashioned jade into precious objects, some of which were buried with the dead.

The Asian Art exhibition features a coiled dragon made of jade, which had been placed with the deceased in a temple structure in northeastern China (I've done a sketch—see Figure 1). The dragon figure, often associated with immortality, resembles the earliest known written character for the word *dragon*. Another fine specimen in the show is the animal spirit mask (Fig. 2), also carved from jade. And don't miss seeing one of the earliest images of the human face in Chinese art—on a hand-coiled, painted earthenware flask (Fig. 3).

The Bronze Age in China (2,000–770 B.C.E.), which produced a stratified society ruled by a military aristocracy, also produced hundreds of inscribed bronze vessels. One example, a bronze *zun* (Fig. 4), is a wine bottle in the form of an owl. The most mystifying object of this era, discovered in one of two large pits in Sichuan province in 1986, is an extraordinary male figure on a pedestal (Fig. 5), standing eight feet tall.

The man's large hands are shaped as if they were holding something, but whatever it was is no longer there. Perhaps it was one of the elephant tusks unearthed near the sculpture.

The two pits also held life-sized heads,

and gold, silver, and jade objects: a spectacular find!

The Early Imperial China Period (221 B.C.E.–924 C.E.) is marked by the domination of the state of Qin, pronounced "chin." (The name of China is thought to be derived from this powerful nation state.) Two thousand years ago, the First Emperor of Qin proclaimed himself ruler of China and founded a sequence of dynasties that would last until 1911. In addition to uniting the country, he established standardized currencies, axle widths, and other weights and measures. The Emperor also built sections

of the Great Wall and ordered the construction of a vast burial center—as the final resting place for his soul—near the present-day city of Xi'an.

His tomb, the largest ceramic project ever undertaken, was discovered in 1974 by laborers digging a well. The burial complex contained an army of more than 7,000 life-sized terracotta soldiers, arranged to protect their leader in the afterlife. On display in the museum exhibit are two archers, one standing and one kneeling (Fig. 6), and a proud, high-ranking army officer (Fig. 7). Out in the lobby, there are two more figures and a team of horses. These five soldiers are representative of the 500 warriors excavated so far.

A few years after the First Emperor's death in 207 B.C.E., the Qin Dynasty collapsed due to a series of economic excesses and labor revolts. The Han Dynasty followed, establishing a more peaceful and orderly society based on the teachings of Confucius. The Han emperors would reign for 400 years until 221 C.E.

When a Han emperor died, he was clothed in a shroud made of 2,500 small jade plaques, which were pierced in the corners and sewn together with gold thread (Fig. 8). Jade plugs were used to seal the body openings—the eyes, ears, nose, mouth, and anus—because it was believed that jade had the power to preserve the body, thus guaranteeing immortality.

Two jade burial shrouds from the Han Dynasty—both dating from around 100 B.C.E., but excavated from tombs more than 2,000 miles apart—are featured in this amazing exhibition.

In case you've lost track of all the changes occurring in the San Francisco art world, here's the latest information I have (I work as a docent for the Fine Arts Museums). Next year, the Asian Art Museum will be moving from its current location adjacent the de Young Museum in Golden Gate Park to the old Main Library building in Civic Center Plaza. The museum should open in its newly reno-

vated building across from City Hall in early 2002.

Meanwhile, the de Young Museum will close its doors on December 31 (of this year) and not reopen until 2005, in a new, modern, earthquake-safe building in the park. For this reason, the next four months will be your last chance to visit these two museums together in Golden Gate Park.

After you explore the exhibits, you might want to walk over to the Japanese Tea Garden, located on the south side of the Asian Art Museum. It's another San Francisco gem and a wonderful place to contemplate the fascinating art you have just seen.

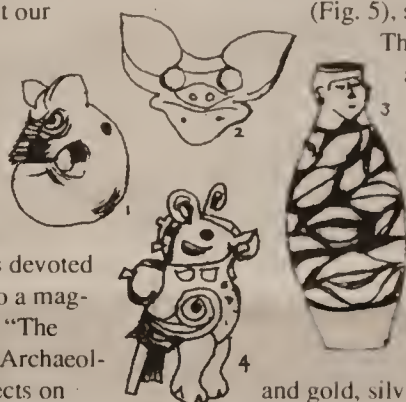
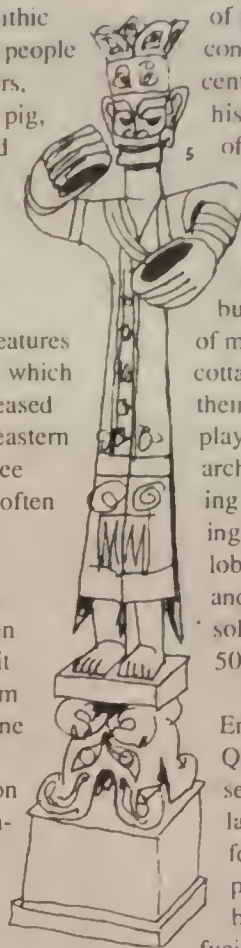
Speaking of contemplating, my man Leo and I spent the rest of our summer contemplating political conventions on TV, wringing our hands over the polls and pundits, and amusing ourselves by thinking up good running mates for Al Gore.

Before we knew that the U.S. president and vice president had to be from different

states—and before Al picked Joe Lieberman, a fine choice—

Leo and I thought Gore could easily top the Bush-Cheney Texas ticket by choosing a running mate from his home state of Tennessee—someone who has a great sense of humor and who is always upfront: Dolly Parton. Wouldn't they have made a winning pair?

Seriously, though, before I saw the Democratic Convention and Al's rousing speech (it was good, wasn't it?), I felt that the best team for next year's White House was the one we have now: Clinton-Gore. Too bad we can't have Bill for eight more years!



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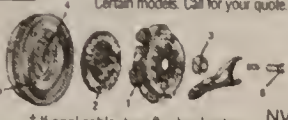
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ARE WE THERE YET?

Family Adventures Close to Home

Jazz Babies: Taking the Kids to Yoshi's

By Janis Cooke Newman

It all started when they turned saxophonist Joshua Redman into a dog and made him play "Crazy Bus."

Until then, I'd always considered jazz to be a uniquely grown-up activity. Jazz was music that was best accompanied by undiluted whiskey and smoldering cigarettes, music whose lyrics tended to concentrate on adult pursuits—like sex, and heartbreak, and the abuse of controlled substances.

Then *Arthur*, the popular PBS show about a book-loving aardvark, aired an episode in which Redman (drawn as a dog) jammed with classical cellist Yo Yo Ma (who had been turned into a cat). Watching the cartoon musicians get down with the Crazy Bus song, I decided, if they could put jazz on educational television, maybe it wasn't nearly as low-down and dirty as I'd thought.

So a couple of Sundays later, my husband and I grabbed our 5-year-old, Alex, and headed over to Yoshi's, the jazz club and Japanese restaurant at Jack London Square.

For the past three years, Yoshi's has been running a series of Sunday matinees designed to inspire a love of jazz in children. And the club has priced these matinees to encourage parents to bring along their miniature music lovers. Admission is \$5 for kids under 12, and \$10 for the adults who accompany them. If you come alone as an adult—even on Sunday—your admission can run as high as \$26. So cultivating your own small jazz aficionado makes both musical and fiscal sense.

Since a good portion of the Sunday matinee audience has an attention span the length of a Rug Rats cartoon, these performances tend to be a little shorter than the evening ones. And the musicians often do something special for the kids. Dee Dee Bridgewater invited a group of children onstage to sing with her. Betty Carter explained how a jazz tune is put together. And legendary harmonica player Toots Thielemans played the theme from *Sesame Street*.



Yoshi's, the esteemed jazz joint in Oakland's Jack London Square, offers a series of Sunday matinees aimed at younger, budding jazz aficionados. Photo by Ken Newman



Hep cat Alex Newman checks out some visuals at Yoshi's. Photo by Ken Newman

The day we went, Yoshi's bill featured saxophonists Sonny Fortune and Frank Morgan. But Alex was much more interested in the bassist, who stood on a small piece of oriental carpet and played in his socks.

Looking around the room, I noticed an under-12 jazz fan at nearly every table. I also noticed that kids don't do the jazz head shake—that little nodding movement adults do to show they're appreciating the music. When Sonny Fortune played an uptempo version of "Just in Time," the kids sat more or less still in their seats, while around them the adults' heads bobbed up and down like dashboard Chihuahuas.

"Why isn't he playing?" Alex asked, pointing to the piano player, who was sucking on a Calistoga bottle.

"Jazz has a free-form structure," my husband explained, "built on solo improvisation."

"What?"

"They're taking turns," I told him.

At the side of the stage, a dad was bouncing his queasy-looking 2-year-old in time to the music. At another table, a pair of 7-year-olds in dinosaur T-shirts were beating out a rhythm with wooden chopsticks. Behind us, a man was biting into a big piece of hamachi.

Sushi is one of the major perks of hearing music at Yoshi's. But if you find the consumption of raw fish distracting during the show, you can always eat ahead of time at Yoshi's restaurant next door. The restaurant's menu includes a child's bento box with things like tempura and chicken yakitori for \$6. And there's green tea ice cream for \$5. Best of all, if you get a seat on the tatami mats, you and your kids will have to remove your shoes—a requirement whose hilarity seems to fall just short of having to eat in your underwear.

As Frank Morgan played a samba, a mom and her little boy salsa-danced in the aisle beneath black and white photographs of Miles Davis and Thelonius Monk. At the lip of the stage, an 11-year-old in sunglasses effected a world-weary air as he sipped his cranberry juice and soda. Next to me, Alex was jiggling his leg in what looked to be a clear understanding of downbeat, but turned out to be an itch.

After the show, the kids rushed the stage for autographs. The bass player let a small boy who could barely reach the frets run his hands across the strings. Two sisters in pink tights clamored for a pair of "I'm a Yoshi's kid" T-shirts.

"How'd you like it?" I asked Alex, as we were leaving the club.

"Good," he said, stopping to study the poster in the lobby. "But which one was the dog again?" □

Ferry to Yoshi's On Sundays

Yoshi's is located at 510 Embarcadero West near Washington Street at Jack London Square in Oakland. If you drive, there's a garage on the corner of Embarcadero and Washington that accepts validation from Yoshi's. But the best way to get there is by ferry. Boats leave from Pier 41 and the Ferry Building in San Francisco. For a schedule, call 415-773-1188 or go to the web site www.blueandgoldfleet.com.

To find out who's playing at Yoshi's, call the club at 510-238-9200 or check out www.yoshis.com. Note that most Sunday matinees sell out in advance, so reserve early. Also, if you're planning to eat in Yoshi's restaurant, make reservations. The place can get pretty crowded before the show.

Seating at Yoshi's is first come, first serve. On Sundays, the doors open at 12:30 p.m., and you're invited in to tag your seats. Then you can go out and explore Jack London Square or have lunch and return by the 2 p.m. showtime.

Sunday is also Farmer's Market Day at Jack London Square. It's fun to come early—the market runs from 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m.—do a little shopping, check out the steel drum and hanjo players, and have lunch out by the water —JCN

Are We There Yet? is a Voice feature about places to go and things to do with your kids. If there's an activity or outing you'd like to see explored, please email Janis Cooke Newman at j-newman@pacbell.net or the Noe Valley Voice at jaxvoice@aol.com

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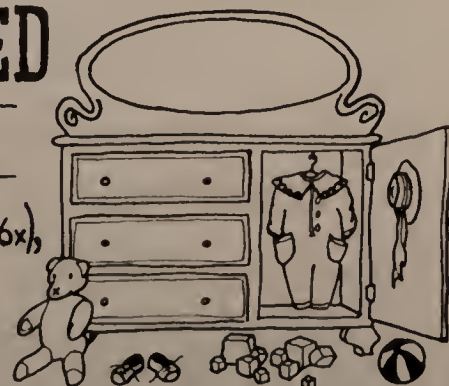


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MORE MOUTHS TO FEED

By Maire Farrington

Christopher Joseph Carell

Aileen Carell went into labor during the wee hours of Halloween morning, 1999, which made the birth of her son, Christopher Joseph Carell, all the more memorable.

"You don't want to be in the delivery room on Halloween evening," says Dad, Rick Carell. "We had the Hell's Angels' party nurse."

"She had a risqué French maid's outfit tied to the front of her nursing scrubs," Aileen explains. "My water broke at 1:30 or 2:30 a.m., which was also when the time changed to daylight savings. So in addition to it being Halloween, all the clocks in the hospital were wrong. Every time someone came in to check my monitor, they'd say, 'Oh, this clock has to be adjusted,' and I'd say, 'No, the last person did it.' It didn't inspire a lot of confidence," she laughs.

Luckily, Dad was on hand in the delivery room at California Pacific Medical Center to record Christopher's dramatic entrance: Baby arrived at 10:12 a.m. (on Nov. 1), weighing 8 pounds, 8 ounces.

"Rick was so sweet," Aileen relates. "He was exhausted, so I sent him home after I got up to the room. And he came back so hyper, with flowers and champagne. He was calling everybody, and he couldn't wait to see Christopher. He was just very excited."

Aileen, too, was thrilled with the outcome. For one thing, it meant relief from the constant heartburn she'd experienced during the final three months of pregnancy. "As soon as he was out, the heartburn stopped, immediately," she says. "I remember going up to the postpartum room and thinking, I'm so glad I'm not pregnant anymore! And then I looked over at Christopher and thought, And wow, I have a baby, too! That's neat!"

Probably the most unusual aspect of Christopher's birth, says Aileen, was that he was a surprise. "After trying [to get pregnant] for about eight years, we'd given up. And then, three years later I found myself pregnant. When I got the test results, I just started crying. I was so emotional. We'd tried for so long, and done so many different things. And he's perfect. He's extremely healthy."

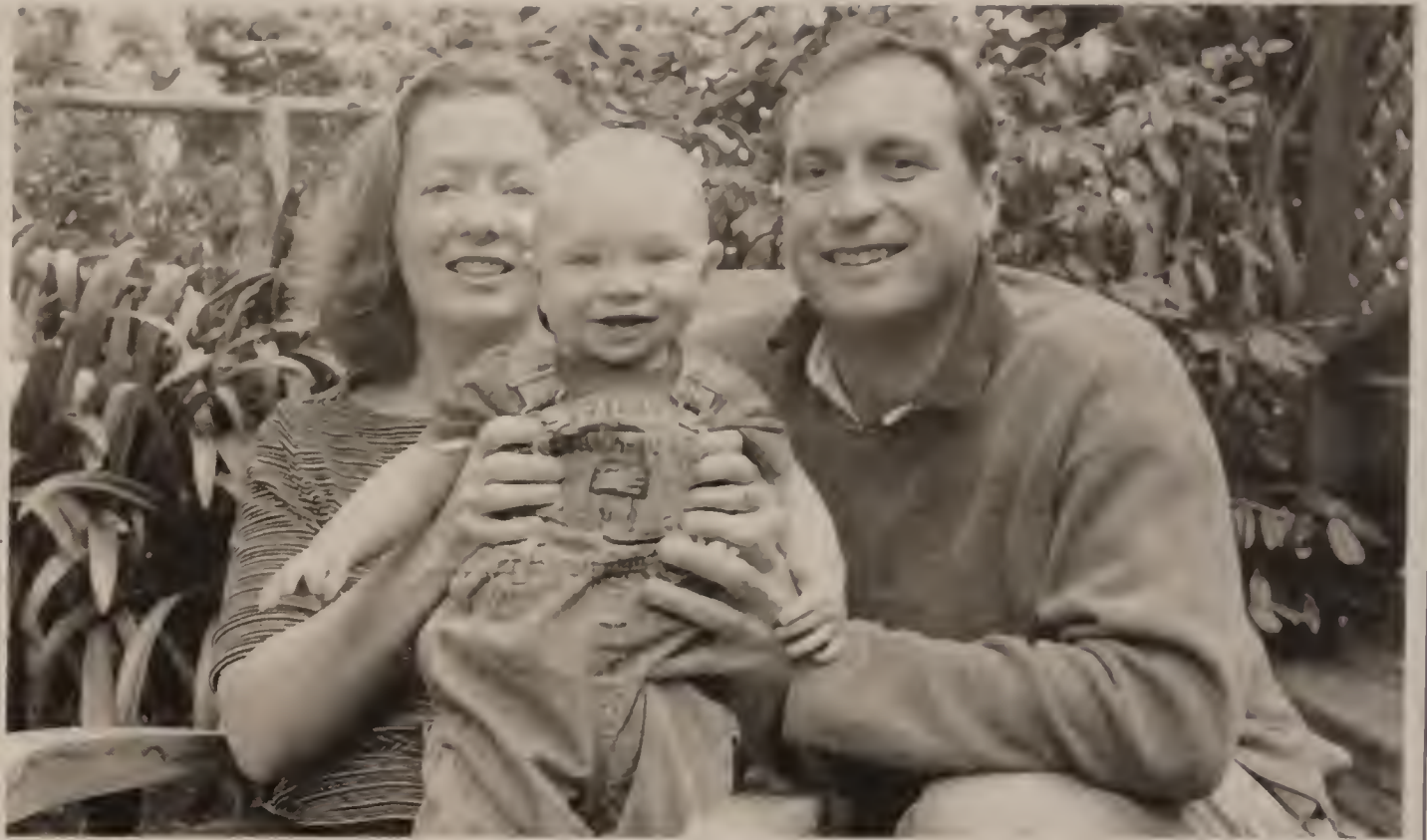
Rick and Aileen, both 44, met in 1977 while attending Brown University in Rhode Island. The couple moved to California in 1978 and got hitched two years later. After stints in Belmont, Calif., and in the Sunset and the Haight, they bought their home on Cumberland Street in 1985.

Rick now works as a software salesperson, and Aileen is a project manager for a commercial furniture company. They celebrated their 19th wedding anniversary on Oct. 25, just a week before Christopher was born.

Christopher has blond hair with red highlights, and his deep blue eyes exude vitality and joy. "He's a very happy baby," says Rick. "He trolls for chicks in the supermarket. He hangs out of the cart and engages people. Typically, we'll get stopped three or four times."

"I think he definitely gets his sociable personality from Rick," says Aileen. "Rick is very outgoing and loves to talk with people. I'm a bit more reserved."

Christopher quickly made friends with the folks at Pete's Cleaners on 24th Street, who were among the first to know that Aileen was expecting. "My mom told me that the dry cleaners are going to know you're pregnant before anybody else."



Christopher Carell (with mom Aileen and dad Rick) began his birth journey on Halloween night. He now counts Dolores Park and the Russian River among his favorite haunts.
Photo by Pamela Gerard

she relates. "I'd started to buy maternity clothes, like big-banded pants, and sure enough, the first time I took them in to Pete's, they said to me, 'Baby?' So they were very excited for us." On Christopher's first visit, "they said, 'He's so happy and friendly, just like his father.' They gave him a present, a little musical toy that plays 'Take Me Out to the Ball Game.' I use that to get him to sleep."

Baby hasn't wasted any time in fine-tuning his motor skills. One morning, Rick and Aileen discovered their son had rolled over onto his stomach while in the crib. "It was like, 'Help! I've rolled over and I can't roll back!'" recalls Dad. To help him practice, Mom and Dad set up a blanket "runway" on the floor.

Then, the night before Father's Day, Christopher turned into a vigorous crawler. "He just took off all of a sudden," says Aileen. "He'd been working on it for a few weeks, and suddenly he made a straight shot for the kitchen. He crawled around the kitchen, and that night he woke up at midnight, starving."

"The following week he stood up in the crib," says Rick. "It was an eerie sight to see a pair of eyes peeking out over the crib. Every time you'd put him in the crib, he'd pull up and just stand there and laugh. He wouldn't go to sleep!"

Christopher also squeals with delight when, with Dad's assistance, he practices his high leaps, up and down in the air. "We're training him for a role in the Chinese acrobats," quips Rick. Another favorite trick is popping soap bubbles—with his head! Rick will blow bubbles in his son's direction while Mom guides Christopher through the air on a collision course with the bubbles.

But his parents remember a time when their son was not so easily amused. "It was hard the first few months," Aileen says, "because like most babies he did have a fussy hour at night."

"The hour of *Diablo*," Rick says. "I used to come home and he'd be screaming his head off. I'd have to put on Frank Sinatra really loud. It seemed to calm him down. I wanted to name him Francis Albert, but Aileen didn't go for that."

Christopher is much more even-tempered these days. "He gets up at 6:30 or 7:00, and we take him in the bed with us," Rick says. "Then he has a bottle, and after about an hour he falls asleep—what a life!"

Though still breastfeeding, Christopher has just started on solid food. "He has some unusual facial expressions when he tries something new," Rick says. "You can tell he doesn't like pears. The face he makes is just incredible."

As for outings, Christopher likes to toddle over to nearby Dolores Park, to schmooze with his buddies and test the playground equipment. And at the Carells' vacation home in Monte Rio on the Russian River, he likes to sit in Rick's lap and enjoy the old-fashioned tree swing. He's even been known to take a dip in the river. Though he enjoys the country, he's a bit wary of some new sights, says Aileen. "Rick had him out on the grass, which isn't like a lawn, it's like wild grass, and Christopher was upset because all the grass was taller than he was!"

When he's ready for action, Christopher joins Mom and Dad on hikes through Armstrong Woods or on visits to the Russian River wineries. "We go wine-tasting with him," Rick says. "He was the hit of the barrel-tasting in March."

Back at the ranch, "We put him in a stroller out on the deck while we're eating, and he falls asleep in it," says Aileen. "When the sun moves over, we just keep strolling him out of the sun."

One of the nice things about fatherhood, says Rick, is that "we get to be part of the 24th Street baby competition. It used to make me so jealous that I had no way to enter," he jokes.

"I've always said that if the Martians landed in Noe Valley, they would think

the men had the babies," Aileen adds. "On Saturday morning, that's all I see is the men with their babies."

For Mom, one of the joys is "seeing Christopher progress and change. I'm overwhelmed by all that he has to learn just to get to the starting point in life, like talk and walk. And I realize he's going to do it all himself. I just have to provide the environment and the place for him to be."

"We feel very blessed," reflects Rick. "To be 44 years old and have a newborn.... I used to joke that I was the oldest guy in Lamaze class and that one day I'd be out there in a wheelchair on the soccer field."

"But like my sister said," Aileen reminds him, "maybe Christopher will be into ballet, and then you can sit in a nice comfortable chair." □

More Mouths to Feed wants to show off your newest family member. If you have welcomed a new baby into the house, or adopted a teenager, please send your announcement to the *Noe Valley Voice*, More Mouths to Feed, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or email us at jayvoice@aol.com. We'd also appreciate a phone number, so we can arrange for the family portrait. □



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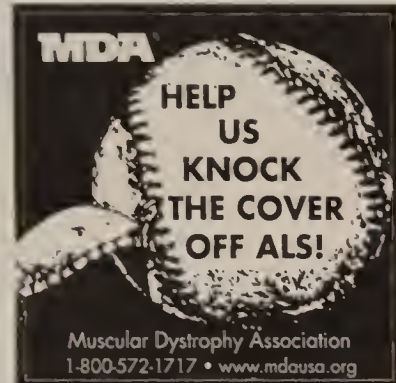
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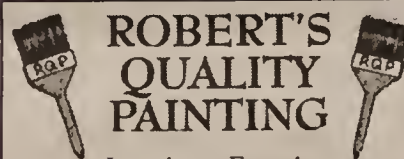
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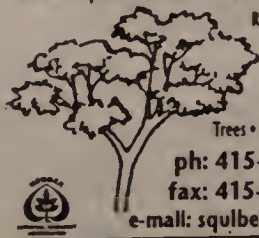
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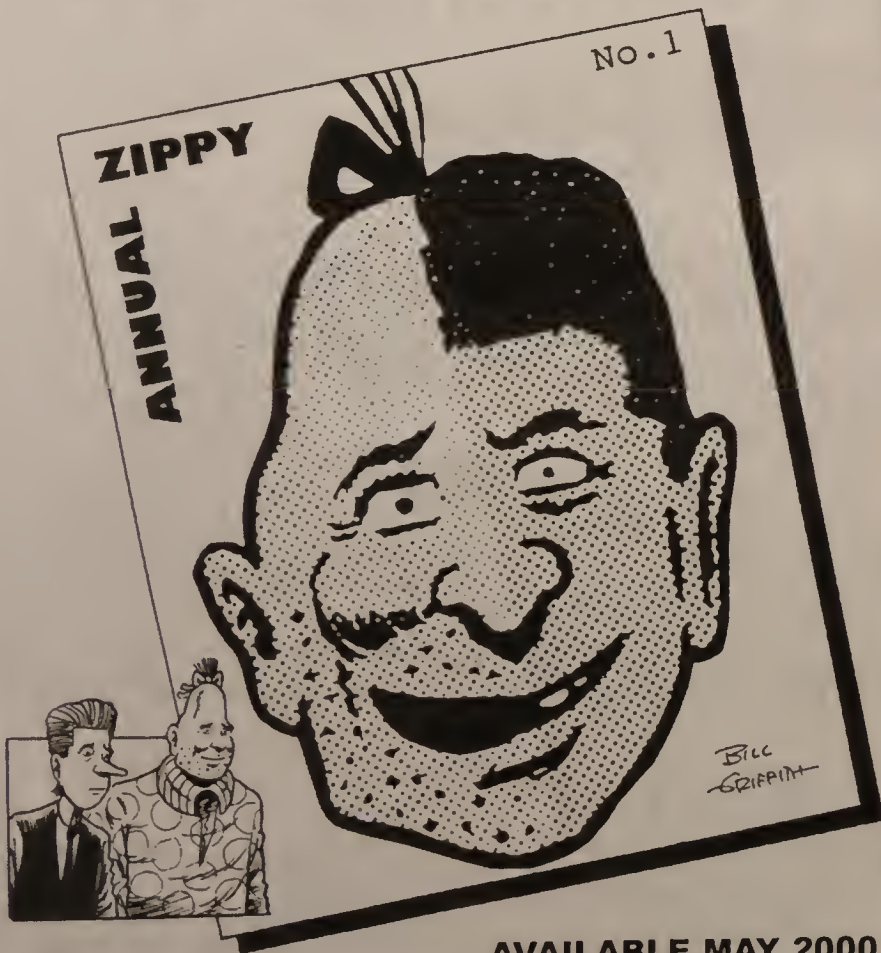


10 – Noon - Annual Blessing of the
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BOOKS in our BRANCH

This month's new books list, provided by librarians Roberta Greifer, Mark Mackler, and Carol Small, features fiction by Susan Sontag, a treatise on cussing, and John Updike's seasonal poems for children. To check out a book's availability, call 695-5095, or visit the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey Street near Castro. In addition to books, the branch offers magazines, CDs, music, an outside deck, a computer with Internet access, and the archives of the *Noe Valley Voice*. Hours are Tuesdays, 10 to 9; Wednesdays, 1 to 9; Thursdays, 10 to 6; Fridays, 1 to 6; and Saturdays, 10 to 6. Don't miss the Noe Valley History Day celebration on Sept. 16!

Adult Fiction

◆ In *Beneath the Ashes*, a mystery by Sue Henry set in the Alaskan wilderness, musher Jessie Arnold finds herself to be a suspect after a mysterious fire erupts in a local pub.

◆ In *America*, by Susan Sontag, portrays Maryna Zalezowska, Poland's greatest actress, who in 1876 emigrates to the United States to start a "utopian" commune.

◆ Alice Hoffman's latest novel, *The River King*, focuses on the small town of Haddan, Massachusetts, divided by class conflicts and confronting an inexplicable death.

◆ Set in Seattle, *Under Cover of Darkness*, a bloodcurdling thriller by James Grippando, begins when the wife of a respectable attorney vanishes under incriminating circumstances.

Adult Nonfiction

◆ *Beyond Sibling Rivalry: How to Help Your Children Become Cooperative, Caring, and Compassionate*, by Peter Goldenthal, illustrates the various factors which determine how your children get along with each other, and what you can do to help the process.

◆ *Cuss Control*, by James O'Connor, explains the hows and whys of foul language and what we can do to curb it.

◆ Covering toilets, toxic tourism, and Annie Sprinkle, *The Mad Monks' Guide to New York City*, by James Crotty and Michael Lane, is an irreverent guide to the "real" city.

*Annotations by Roberta Greifer and Mark Mackler
Librarians, Noe Valley Branch*

Preschool Story Time

◆ Children ages 3 to 5 will hear memorable tales at the library's *preschool story time*, 10 a.m., Tuesdays, Sept. 5, 12, and 19.

Infant and Toddler Lapsits

◆ Enjoy stories, lullabies, and fingerplays at the 7 p.m. *lapsits*, for parents and their little ones, on Wednesdays, Sept. 6, 13, 20, and 27.

Films

◆ Preschoolers ages 3 to 5 can watch *films* at 10 and 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 26.



Children's Fiction

◆ A boy and his grandfather search together for a special pair of shoes, then celebrate after they find them in *Hello, Shoes!* by Joan W. Blos. *Ages 1 to 3.*

◆ Handy Bob is a janitor, working very hard at Lakeside School to deal with *The Feet in the Gym*, by Teri Daniels. *Ages 3 to 6.*

◆ Although Juno speaks English and his grandmother speaks Korean, they have an effective way of conveying important ideas to one another in *Dear Juno*, by Soyung Pak. *Ages 4 to 6.*

◆ Sam's outfit for "Future Job Day" at school leads to a series of interesting experiences and a wonderful surprise at the end of *Zooman Sam*, by Lois Lowry. *Ages 6 to 9.*

◆ Although Josh is determined to leave Canara, it is surprisingly difficult to do so in Phyllis Reynolds Naylor's *Sang Spell*. *Ages 10 and up.*

Children's Nonfiction

◆ In *A Child's Calendar: Poems*, the words by John Updike and the illustrations by Tria Scharf Hyman describe a family's enjoyment of seasonal activities in each month of the year. *Ages 6 to 9.*

◆ In *Streets of Gold* by Rosemary Wells, Mary (Masha) Antin leaves harsh conditions in Russia and journeys with her family to the United States, where she thrives on the educational system and discovers her talent for writing. *Ages 6 to 9.*

◆ With clear, informative text and photographs, Raymond Bial describes how seven generations of children in this country received their education in *One-Room School*. *Ages 7 to 10.*

*Annotations by Carol Small
Children's Librarian, Noe Valley Branch*

Noe Valley History Day

◆ This annual history celebration features a display of photos and memorabilia from Noe Valley's past; films and videos by San Francisco historians; and a chance to meet old and new residents of your favorite neighborhood. The festivities will also include refreshments and a 3 p.m. visit from Heather the Court Jester, performing magic, comedy, and juggling. Saturday, Sept. 16, 2 to 5 p.m.

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Contact: Greg Clark, 719-8828
Mailing Address: Call Greg Clark for info.
Meetings: First Tuesday of month, in the auditorium at Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez, 7 p.m.

Castro Area Planning + Action

Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230; capa@home4us.org
Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Association

Contact: Ed White, 774-3237
Mailing Address: First Church of God, 3728 Cesar Chavez St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Last Thursday of month, First Church of God, 7:30 p.m.

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Robert Dockendorff, 826-3867
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Thursday of month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228
Mailing Address: 3732 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Bimonthly; membership meetings semi-annually. Call for details.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contact: Dennis Downing, 441-9243; Keith Eickman, 282-8988; Evelyn Martin, 826-6734; or Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m. Call for summer holiday schedule.

Eureka Valley Promotion Association

Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3624
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Third Thursday (except July, August, and December), Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Paul Nixon, 647-5183
Mailing Address: 163 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Call for details.

Fairmount Neighborhood Association

Contact: Susan Nutter, 285-8484
Mailing Address: 78 Harper St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically at Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day & Sanchez, 7 p.m.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Third Wednesday of the month, Glen Park Recreation Center, 7:30 p.m.

Friends of Noe Valley

Contact: Jean Amos, 826-2044
Mailing Address: 327 Jersey St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:45 p.m.

La Leche League of San Francisco

Contact: Thalia DeWolf, 641-8366
Mailing Address: 47 Costa St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: First Tuesday of month, Bernal Heights Library, Cortland & Moultrie, 10:15 a.m.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: Katherine Pietrycha, president; Katherine.Pietrycha@wcom.com
Mailing Address: 3288 21st St., Box 44, San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Executive board meets first Tuesday of month; general meetings quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Courts Coalition

Contact: Dr. Tom Mills, secretary.
Voicemail: 675-0110; nichapin@aol.com
Mailing Address: Noe Courts Coalition, P.O. Box 460520, San Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: Irregular. Call for information.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Dave Monks, 821-4087
Mailing Address: 167 Valley Street, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Second Wednesday of month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association

Contact: Robert Roddick, 641-8692
Mailing Address: Robert T. Roddick, Noe Valley Law Offices, P.O. Box 460574, San Francisco, CA 94114-6003
Meetings: Last Wednesday of month, Bank of America, 24th & Castro, 9 a.m.

Noe Valley Neighborhood Parks Improvement Association

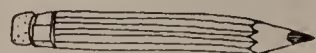
Contact: Debra Niemann, 641-4934, or Krista Keegan, 550-9050
Mailing Address: 4171 23rd St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Monday of month, St. Paul's Church cafeteria, 3 p.m. Call to confirm.

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473
Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Last Thursday of month, Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez, 7:30 p.m.



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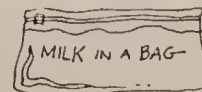
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Mikeytom Market, Help Wanted. Want a great job? We are looking for personable, flexible, dependable employees. Full-time, with benefits. 1747 Church St. 826-5757, Loren or Tom.

Noe Valley Studio Sublet. \$450 a month, November through January. Cat lover a *must!* Call 821-6391.

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IT'S EASY. Just type or print the text of your ad, multiply the number of words by **30¢ A WORD**, and send us a check or money order for the total amount. (Note that a phone number, including area code, counts as just one word.)

Then mail your ad copy and check, made out to the *Noe Valley Voice*, so that we receive it by the **15TH OF THE MONTH** before the month you'd like to advertise in. The address is *Noe Valley Voice* Class Ads, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114.

10 FOR 10 DISCOUNT: The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes a news edition 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the *same* class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the October 2000 issue, distributed in Noe Valley starting Friday, Sept. 29. **THE DEADLINE FOR CLASS ADS IS September 15, 2000.**

Sorry, the *Voice* is unable to accept Class Ads by phone or email at this time. However, there's one consolation: The ads are displayed on our web site free of charge. Go to www.noevalleyvoice.com.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by an SASE. Thank you.

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For Sale: '79 Volvo 245DL Wagon. Reliable, well-maintained, all records, over \$5,000 in updates. \$1,200 or best offer. In San Rafael. 415-492-1131

Words Wanted: The *Noe Valley Voice* welcomes submissions of poems, stories, and essays, particularly those with neighborhood themes. Send manuscript and self-addressed, stamped envelope, plus name, phone, and email to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.



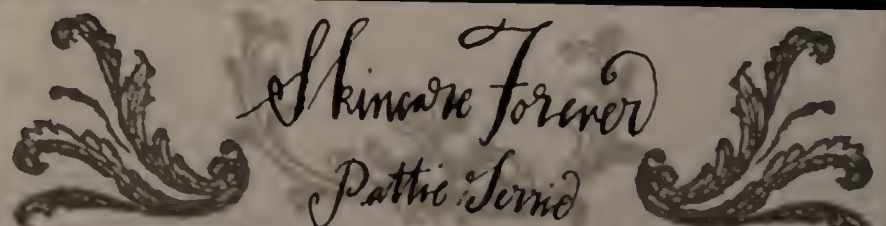
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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

The Moment of Truth

By Mazook

MORE THAN 200 fire-eating Noe Valleons attended the San Francisco Board of Supervisors' meeting held in James Lick School's auditorium on Monday, Aug. 21, at 6 p.m. sharp.

Over the past two years, each supervisor has had an opportunity to hold a regular board meeting in a city neighborhood. Supervisor Mark Leno was the last one, and he chose Noe Valley as his site.

Before the meeting, the word on the street was that Leno would announce new legislation roping in "monster home" development in Noe Valley, the Castro, and Glen Park. Thus, many neighbors came to the hall armed with signs, petitions, and speeches about their monstrous experiences with developers, and with planners and bureaucrats at City Hall.

The meeting was being broadcast live (a first in board history — it's usually taped and played later) on cable channel 26. TV media was there—channels 5, 20, and 35—and even the Spanish station, 14. Print reporters, including yours truly, hovered around the speakers podium.

Just before the meeting, Leno and his aide informed us that he was "fine-tuning" the legislation and would introduce it at the board's next meeting, Aug. 28 (after my press time, folks). The rumor is that he'll ask for the 40-foot height limit on new construction to be lowered to 30.

After opening remarks by Leno and Board President Tom Ammiano, Ammiano asked those who wanted to make public statements to line up in the center aisle. I want to tell you, about a quarter of the people in the room marched to the center and formed a line that went out the door. Ammiano then reminded those assembled that the meeting would have to end by 8:30, and encouraged speakers to try not to use all of their three minutes.

One of the first speakers on the monster issue was Dave Monks, president of the Noe Valley Democratic Club. He set the tone for the parade of neighbors to follow.

Monks told the board that the rise in monster homes—5,000 and 6,000 sq. ft. structures that dwarf their neighbors—was "causing great anxiety in our neighborhood. People are increasingly frustrated, angry, even traumatized by the way they're being treated at City Hall."

"Battling against monster homes," he said, "leaves neighbors drained and feeling that their city government is working

actively against their interests—that the deck is stacked against them. That needs to change." The crowd cheered.

Monks, and almost every speaker after him, told of encounters with the Planning Department staff and the Planning Commission. People talked about taking time off from work (and life) to attend meetings, only to be told when they got there, "The matter has been continued."

"We are all happy with the tidal wave of economic prosperity," said John Barbey of the Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association, "but we need a seawall right now to protect us from all this prosperity."

Rae Leaper told the supervisors that the demolition of a cottage near her home galvanized her group, the Collingwood Hill Neighbors. Membership jumped from 75 to 120 in one month, she said.

Other groups, such as the Billy Goat Hill Neighbors Association, appeared to be forming on the spot.

Speaker after speaker pleaded with the board to adopt legislation that would "protect the character and history of our neighborhoods." Finally, after 50 people had exercised their first amendment rights, an exhausted crowd cheered once again when Loe Devone told the board, "If the Planning Commission had been doing their job, we all wouldn't be here."

Here, here.

MEANWHILE, the pleas of the neighbors near the intersection of Castro and Jersey have been heard. At the James Lick meeting, the board adopted a resolution in support of a four-way stop at that intersection. This apparently was done over the objections of both Muni and the Department of Parking and Traffic (DPT).

DPT was telling the neighborhood as recently as the end of July that while "we share your concern about traffic safety and have conducted an evaluation for the possibility of installing additional stop signs at this intersection... we make our recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, which in turn makes the final decision [and] based on our investigation, we do *not* recommend installing additional signs to stop Castro Street."

However, the neighbors, backed by the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA), kept pounding the city with petitions, describing the many car accidents that have occurred at the intersection. Alexander Gardener of Video Wave even started a collection of crash photos.

Mitch Schoenbrun, representing the Castro Street neighbors, presented a bundle of petitions that night. So when Mark Leno said the board had sided with the neighborhood and that "stop signs should be installed within the next 60 days," the audience let out a big "Hurray!"

By the way, still pending is the Merchants' petition for diagonal parking on

Castro. Rumor is that the city is leaning toward diagonal parking on one side of Castro, between Jersey and Clipper streets.

HURRAY FOR East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club, which has purchased two benches for Downtown Noe Valley. The steel-coated outdoor sofas will find homes in front of Hot Headz hair salon, on the south side of 24th between Castro and Noe, and Peek-A-Bootique, at the outbound bus stop on Castro at 24th.

Club member Carol Yenne, who owns Small Frys kids' store, has also added one more bench to East & West's order. This one she'll pay for herself and put in front of her store, on the north side of 24th near Castro. Says Carol, "The new benches cost \$400 to \$500 each, but are made of materials that last forever. I would really encourage other [non-food] merchants to put benches in front of their stores."

My favorite benches once sat in front of Panos' Restaurant, on the corner of 24th and Noe. Unfortunately, they were removed in favor of sidewalk tables and chairs (by Panos' replacement, Pasta Pomodoro). The tables are now taxed by the city and are for patrons only.

ALL THE NOES FIT TO PRINT: If you just got back from vacation and are still catching up on the evolutionary jerks in Downtown Noe Valley, you better sit down. Yes, Dan's Gas is gone. That is front-page news in the *Voice*. What will take its place will also be front-page stuff.

Other big news is that Phoenix Books, the only used bookstore in Downtown Noe Valley, lost its lease when the building (at 3850 24th St.) was sold in August. Rumor has it that a new, one-year lease has been obtained, but at a higher rate than Phoenix can pay and still stay in business. The bookstore, which also sells some new

books and new and used music CDs, has been in Noe Valley for 15 years, 13 at its present location near Vicksburg.

Phoenix owner Kate Rosenberger is not talking about the details right now, she says, because she is still negotiating with her new landlord, a longtime Noe Valley resident. But she wants to express how much she appreciates the support she has received from her customers in her struggle to keep Phoenix open. "It would be a real shame if Noe Valley, the affluent and intellectual neighborhood that it is, can't keep its last surviving used bookstore."

As for the news from Uptown Noe Valley: Recent reports (here) that Mikeytom Market (Church and Day) had been sold were premature. The deal was on, lease negotiations faltered, and now the deal is off. Mike and Tom's retirement has been put on hold.

The rumor that Star Bakery is for sale

Continued on Next Page



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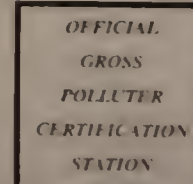
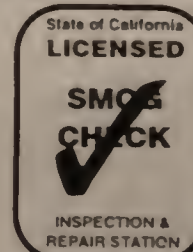
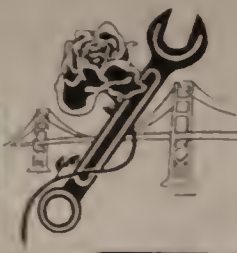
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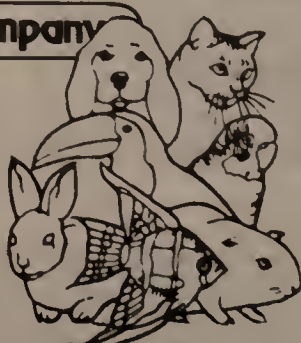
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RUMORS

Continued from Previous Page

is true, but the rumor that the 111-year-old fixture at Church and 29th has been sold and will become a Chinese restaurant à la Eric's or Alice's is premature.

Rumors that the building and business at Cafe J (Church near Day) are for sale are true. Rumors that it has already been sold are not true. Rumors that the popular restaurant will change management are probably not true.

The buzz on Church Street this summer—that the Golden Gate Metropolitan Community Church at Church and 27th was closing—turned out to be true. The "For Sale" sign on the building was a dead giveaway. But the rumor that the building was sold in July is false.

According to Herth Realty spokesman Larry Stebbins, there was a sale pending, but it fell through. In late August, his firm was still "marketing the property." Old-timers might remember that the building was built back in '49 as a bakery. The current asking price is \$499K.

By the way, the last services at Golden Gate were held on July 30. Church Pastor Jim Mitulski said the congregation of the larger MCC in the Castro made a decision to close the Noe Valley church due to dwindling attendance. But you will recall that the church and its neighbors were at odds last winter over the site being used as a homeless shelter for city youth. That was front-page *Voice* news then.



NOE VALLEY'S GARAGE SALES are the "Best of the Bay," according to the *S.F. Bay Guardian's* annual survey. That may be true, but the accompanying description of Noe Valley is somebody's fantasy. Opines the *BG*: "Known as the 'lesbian and bisexual mecca,' Noe Valley is a lovely residential neighborhood that's a little bit Mission and a little bit Castro." Hunh? The tabloid goes on: "Blue-haired dykes walk their bulldogs down streets where multicultural groups of kids play ball." News to me.

As for our being the garage sale mecca, the *BG* says, "[Noe Valley] is the perfect place to troll for garage sales, especially on Sunday mornings when everyone puts out their vintage trinkets and weird old domestic items for sale." (But we know the best time is Saturday morning.)

Fountain of Youth's "Pup Cup" won in the *BG's* "Best Doggie Treat" department.

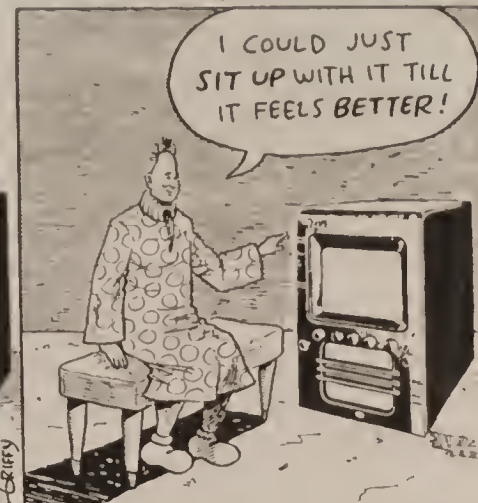
ZIPPY



"A FRIEND IN NEED"



Bill Griffith



The Church Street (at 27th) ice cream parlor serves up a "doggie-safe" scoop of vanilla surrounded by dog biscuits. I have tried the item and thought the Double Rainbow Ice Cream was fabulous, but I didn't particularly like the biscuits. By the way, the bathroom at Fountain of Youth is one of the cleanest in the city and well worth the price of the Pup Cup.

Amberjack Sushi (across from Fountain of Youth) turned out to be the Best of the Bay in the most dubious category in the *BG's* entire survey: "The Best Restaurant to Evaluate Male Ponytails." According to the editors, "Nothing says young and wealthy dot-com dude quite like a ponytail..." Yeah, that's what I go to Amberjack for.

I was happy to see that the Marsh's

Mock Cafe (at 22nd and Valencia) was selected as "The Best Place to Spot Robin Williams." But I will be unhappy to see the entire Bay Area mobbing the club, making it impossible to get seats. Oh well, the walk back up the 22nd Street hill is still the best climb in the city.



OUR OWN Tuggey's Hardware at 24th and Sanchez is still the best hardware store for miles. Writer Mike Weiss had a heartwarming encounter with Tuggey's—the kind we all have been having for more than 30 years—and wrote about it in the July 9 Sunday *Ex/Chron*: "[At Tuggey's] you find the nails on a contraption like a lazy Susan, six rows high

with 10 scoop-shape bins to a row.... They're sold by the ounce. I took a small brown bag and scooped out a few of these, a couple of those, and some of the others. Couldn't have been more than 50 cents worth. The man at the register—I recognized him as the proprietor but didn't yet know his name was Denny Giovannoli—asked me: 'That all you need?'

"Yep, I said, just the nails.

"Ah well," he said, 'no charge.'"

Mike went on to describe the glow he felt for the rest of the day: "Mark Twain once said that most of us can run all day on a single compliment, and it's just as true of a single act of kindness, decency, or generosity." You said it.

Speaking of our own, the *Voice's* "family adventures" columnist, Janis Cooke Newman, wrote a hilarious story for *Examiner Magazine's* Aug. 13 edition. Hope you saw it. It was the piece called "Diary of a Grade School Applicant," about Janis and her husband Ken's tortuous dealings with the public/private school lottery in San Francisco. Congratulations, Janis, on finally getting revenge in print, after your son was accepted to a good school.



BEFORE I GO, I gotta tell you that Scott Ostler's column in the July 18 *Chronicle* had a zinger of an item about Noe Valley. He wrote: "For rent, a nice little two-bedroomer in Noe Valley, and the owner was asking \$1,800 a month. Sunday, more than 100 prospective renters showed up, each kicking in the \$100 credit-check fee that the owner was asking in hopes of weeding out casual shoppers. The place finally rented for \$3,000 per."

Hey, don't pay those prices, people. It's hard to believe, but 25 years ago this place was a "mecca" for blue-collar workers.

That's all, you all. See you next month with all the items that I couldn't fit in this month.

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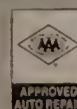
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Childhood Is a Runaway Train

BY CLARE WILLIS

MY CHILDREN are all grown up now. "How old are they?" you ask, thinking perhaps they're in college. My older son, Devin, is turning 4 tomorrow, and my younger son, Cameron, is almost 2.

When Cameron was a newborn, and older women would see me on 24th Street pushing Devin in a stroller with the baby in a Snugglie on my chest, they'd smile in the most wistful way and say, "They

grow up so fast.... My son Ernest is a bricklayer now." At the time I thought they must be mocking me, because in fact time had never moved so slowly, what with the 24-hour days and all. Some days I never left the house, never changed out of my pajamas. The train was stuck in the station.

But slowly, so slowly that I hardly noticed, things began to change.

My son began preschool. When my husband went out the door in the morning, there would be Devin right behind him, backpack hanging down to his knees, baseball cap turned backwards, waiting at the door to give me a peck on the cheek and go off to his own world, just like his father.

My younger son Cameron weaned himself from breastfeeding at seven months. He was starting to crawl, and

the world was just too interesting to be staring at my shirt for hours. He would hold his own bottle and push me away so he could spend his drinking time absorbing the world, seeing new things, things that didn't involve me.

One morning I went through a closet of my older son's clothes, looking for things for Cameron to wear. I

had already put away six boxes of Devin's outgrown clothes, starting with the tiny "lay-

ette" sets I'd bought before he was born and never used because they were too impractical — the gowns with a pull tie at the bottom that seemed so useful but always rode up around his legs as he slept, the hand-crocheted booties that never fit the big feet he was born with. My second son, Cameron, is just seven months old, I thought, and here I am, digging into the "9-12 months" box to find things to fit him.

When I opened the next box and started laying out all the little clothes on the bed, an unexpected wave of emotion brought tears to my eyes.

These were the clothes that Devin had been wearing when he hit the big milestones. The tiny Hawaiian shirt and matching shorts that he wore to his first birthday party. The fuzzy white jammies he was wearing the night I

nursed him for the last time. The blue overalls and red sandals he was wearing when he took his first step. I took out a new box and carefully packed away the clothes that held the strongest memories, pressing each outfit to my chest as if I could hug the baby that he was at that moment. In this way I created my son's first heirloom box. (Which, of course, is really *my* heirloom box, since the memories are mine and not his.)

That was when I first accepted that my boys were, in fact, growing up. The train had left the station.

In the last four years there have been many moments during which I've stopped dead in my tracks, struck by the fleeting beauty of my sons' childhoods. Like a tourist seeing a monument he knows he'll never visit again in his lifetime, you stare until your eyes burn.

BUT NO MATTER how hard I try, the moments slip away. The baby Devin was replaced by the toddler, only to be replaced by the boy. The events I think I "remember" are actually the photographs my husband has taken all along the way. He has a motto: "If there isn't a picture of it, it didn't happen." I used to tease him for all the pictures he took, then for the time he spent carefully arranging them in photo albums, neatly labeling each one, often adding some souvenir gleaned from the event. A train ticket, a wedding invitation, a birth announcement, all neatly trimmed and pasted in the book next to the smiling faces and gorgeous landscapes.

When my husband would run to get the camera every time our son did

anything the remotest bit cute, I thought it was overkill. I even felt that sometimes he was ruining the moment by falling over himself to take a picture. After all, shouldn't we be trying to experience life instead of immortalizing it? I never understood that this was his way of holding the moment in his heart.

Tomorrow at my son's birthday party, my husband will be chasing the children with his camera like a paparazzo, shooting dozens of pictures, hoping for one good one. You'll find me standing in a corner, staring. If you come up to me and ask what I'm doing, I'll just say wistfully, "They grow up so fast, don't they?" □

Clare Willis, a former schoolteacher turned Noe Valley mom, splits her time between Douglass Park and her computer. She has just finished her first book, Out for Blood, a murder mystery about vampires and other bloodsuckers in San Francisco.

THE LAST PAGE

The Last Page

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Repose

Photo by Pamela Gerard